

Sketch

Pontefract rallies to Bertie's cause and its black past

Stephen Lyle

IN THE gardens and allotments of the West Yorkshire town of Pontefract it is springing up as quickly as the trifolium of John Wyndham's classic sci-fi novel, Gylfyrhinn glabra, liquorice to you and I, as the comeback to the town to which it gave fame if not fortune.

True, Pontefract has had its rich moments in history. Richard I took his last breath there, as did Catherine Howard after being caught having an extra marital roll in the hay by her husband Henry VIII.

The townsfolk have always told visitors Pontefract is one of the last unexplored jewels of English heritage, flagging up its Roman and medieval past.

But to the rest of us, Pontefract is renowned for just one thing, those small, sickly, sweet black discs they call Pomfret cakes. For reasons no one seemed able to explain yesterday, it was the centre for the production of liquorice. Until chocolate displaced it in a nation's affections.

Fears that the raw material for the famous cakes is becoming scarce have put the liquorice plant at the top of the civic agenda. There has been a manic bout of planting. Shrubs as tall as six feet are now appearing on any available patch of green.

Mollie Dixon, who has five of the dark-leaved bushes in her garden, was explaining why she is passing cuttings on to friends and family. "I want to ensure the plant has a future. There used to be fields of liquorice here and although we won't see that any more, I don't think the plant should disappear altogether. I grow it because I have a pride in Pontefract and I know lots of people who are doing the same. It's part of our history. And the plants are resilient. Sometimes when I am digging around in that part of the garden I will uncover the roots, wash them and eat

them. I keep a basket in the kitchen where I dry the roots and the children love to chew on them," Ms Dixon said.

It is indigenous to the fertile crescent of Iran, Iraq and Turkey, but liquorice's connection with Pontefract goes back a long way. Townsfolk believe it was probably brought to West Yorkshire in the Middle Ages, by crusaders and monks who used it for medicinal purposes. It was not until about 1600, when some bright spark decided to mix the sweet juice of the plant with flour and paste, that the Pomfret cake, so maligned by Shakespeare, was born.

The cakes had their halcyon days with the Victorians. So great was the demand that plants had to be shipped in from abroad.

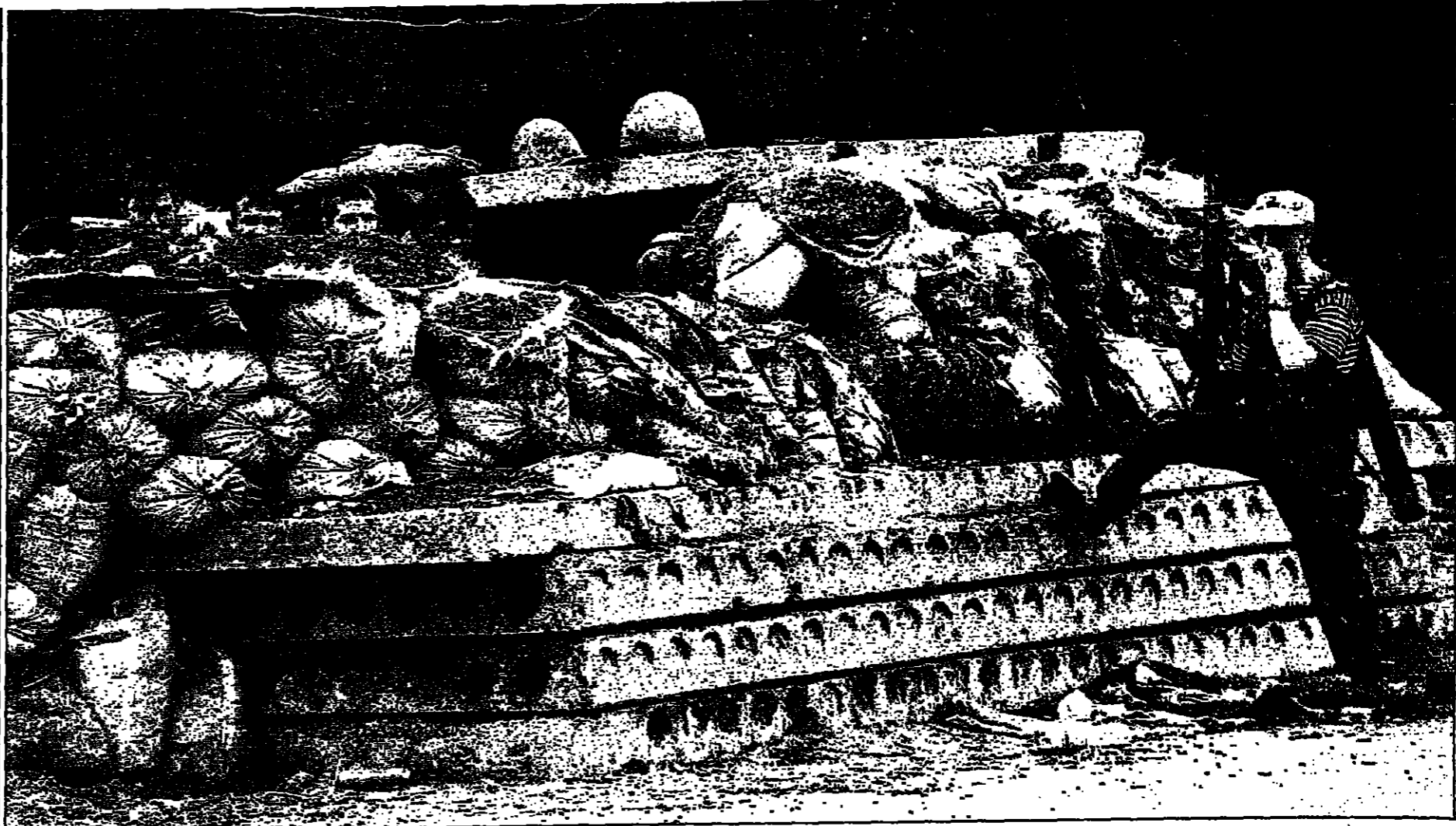
It was the growing popularity of chocolate which spelled the beginning of the end for the liquorice fields of West Yorkshire. The same fields where Beethoven met his love with many a burled liquorice bush blooming around his feet.

The town's museum curator, Richard van Riel, is leading Pontefract's liquorice revival. From his back room office, Mr Van Riel and colleagues have planned this week's Pontefract Liquorice Fayre, the town's celebration of the plant.

"It's a wonderful plant. Doctors in America think that it can be used to cure cancer, Aids and all sorts of things. And everyone remembers their childhood and what liquorice meant to them," Mr Van Riel said.

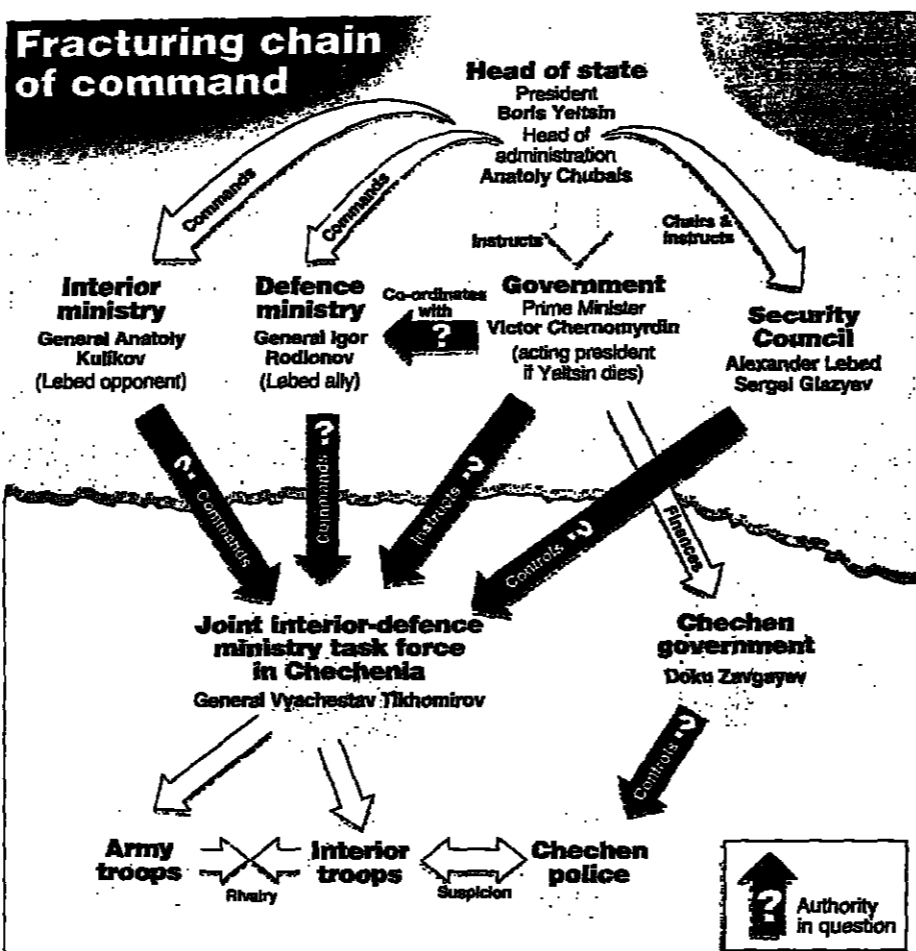
The Liquorice Fayre will include a great liquorice hunt, liquorice walk and liquorice fashion show. Mr Van Riel must have read the expression on my face as he spelled out this week's festivities. "I suppose you think this is the silly season?" he inquired.

"No, not at all," I assured him. But it was tricky to ignore the 5ft tall figure of Bertie Bassett, that embodiment of liquorice, smiling at me from behind him.



Fighters stand guard at a bunker in the Chechen capital Grozny. Russia's General Lebed announced a ceasefire yesterday, but Russian bombing continued. PHOTOGRAPH BY ZORAN SOZOVIC

Power vacuum puts Russia on the rack



Lebed pledges 'no bloodbath' in Chechnia but Yeltsin's illness brings rivalry and disarray

James Meek in Moscow

RUSSIA'S self-styled peacemaker, Alexander Lebed, said last night he would not allow a fresh bloodbath in the Chechen capital, Grozny — as evidence grew that local Russian commanders have been more than ready to take control of Moscow than the Chechen rebels.

On the fifth anniversary of his victory over the putschists which brought about the collapse of the USSR, President Boris Yeltsin was nowhere to be seen — leaving the conflicting organs of power in disarray. Rivalries between powerful figures are intensifying. "We have a strange situation," Sergei Yushenkov, a liberal deputy, said. "All the president's services talk about his good health, but he is nowhere to be found at this important moment for the country. We have a perfect situation for a new putsch."

Gen Lebed criticised Russia's Byzantine decision-making process, though claiming he and his colleagues had settled the question of who was in charge. Before Gen Lebed's arrival, Gen. Bulatov's replacement, General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, said he had no plans to cancel the ultimatum. The air raids on Grozny yesterday seemed to be a prelude to a full-scale attack. Meanwhile, aides said Mr Yeltsin, aged 65, had completed his two-day inspection tour of his next holiday destination — the lakeside resort of Valdai, north-west of Moscow — and would be back in the Kremlin today. But reflecting unease about the president's condition and whereabouts, Russian newspapers began probing the state of his health. Commentators pushed a map of north-west Russia with the headline: "He's been somewhere". Quoting its own Kremlin sources, Komsomolskaya Pravda repeated suggestions in the foreign media that the president needed surgery. But doctors at an elite heart clinic again denied this. A British aid worker being held hostage in Chechnia has been released, the Foreign Office said last night. Michael Penrose, aged 23, and French colleague Frederic Malardeau, aged 35, were seized in Grozny 26 days ago.

First night

Fascination with failure makes a belated success

Michael Billington

It Could Be Any One Of Us

FIRST it was by Jeeves: now it is It Could Be Any One Of Us. Alan Ayckbourn, in his spanking new Scarborough theatre, seems to be specialising in rescuing his past failures: in this case a spoof whodunnit which was first seen in 1983 and soon discarded. But it is used to be, if not a major discovery, an eminently stageable piece greatly enjoyed by a shirt-sleeved audience.

In part — but only in part — the play is a parody of the kind of thriller that used to be the staple fare in the reps. We are in an isolated house occupied by a group of artistic no-hopers. The head honcho, a bitterly unperformed composer, announces he will disinherit his relatives and pass the family fortune on to an ex-piano pupil who runs a pet shop.

When she arrives to discuss the will, her life is triply threatened — by failed brakes, a falling wardrobe and a poisoned drink — before the composer himself bites the dust. Who, among the family, could have done it? Ayckbourn makes amusing play with the clichés of the genre. But his real purpose, as so often, is to write a compassionate anatomy of failure. Indeed his chief character is a half-shut private eye and deadbeat claims-assessor (it is no accident that two of the characters are intending to see Double Indemnity) who could not solve a crossword puzzle. He, of course, decides to take charge of the investigation; and, in Jon Strickland's well judged performance, he

even dons a trenchcoat to quiz the suspects and spin on his heel to finger each of them in turn in the time-honoured tradition of the stock thriller.

But Ayckbourn has an almost Chekhovian fascination with failure, and here he invites our sympathy not just for the alleged sleuth but for the whole family who compose, write and paint without a shred of talent. Driven on by a mother who was herself a frustrated artist, they all lead lives of quiet desperation. But Ayckbourn, in his credit never patronises these people: he simply shows the melancholy of having artistic dreams with no executive skill.

It takes time to crank up the plot, but once it gets on its feet, the spoof meshes neatly with the sympathy. And Ayckbourn's production is full of deft internal jokes: the baronial clutter of Roger Glossop's set, the reflected millions windows of Mick Hughes's lighting, even the way the investigative Strickland clumsily sits astride a chair. Juliet Mills, as a wispy writer of unpublished thrillers, Malcolm Renne as a composer of unperformed music and Janet Dibley as the commonsensical prospective legatee give wonderfully well observed performances.

The paradox of Ayckbourn is that he is probably our most widely performed dramatist; yet he has never lost his fascination with life's unending losers. And in this quietly enjoyable play he sends up the Christie type of thriller while displaying, as the title implies, an admirable sympathy for the great army of people whose artistic reach wildly exceeds its grasp.

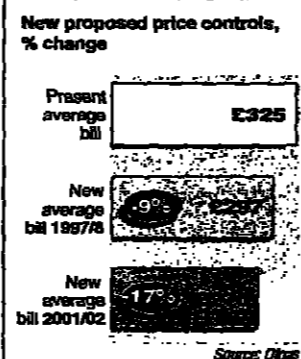
This review appeared in some editions yesterday

British Gas says bill cut threatens 10,000 jobs

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

BRITISH GAS threatened to axe 10,000 jobs last night after failing to persuade Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, to soften radically plans to cut bills by £26 a year.

Gas reductions



The company declined to say whether it would reject the proposals and take the battle to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. But one analyst in the City said it would be "lunacy" to go to the MMC with little prospect of winning greater concessions. The Gas Consumers' Council welcomed Ms Spottiswoode's decision as "regulation with a Robin Hood flavour". The decision addressed the balance between 2 million shareholders who had enjoyed high dividends since privatisation, and 18 million customers.

Gregor, national secretary of the GMB union, dismissed the price curbs as a "short-term cashback solution" which left workers facing uncertainty. Calling for MMC intervention, he said Ms Spottiswoode's plans were "unworkable" and short-termism gone mad.

The watchdog's proposals are more lenient than plans aired in May to cut bills by £30 a year in 1997/98, and by up to £60 a year by 2002, which would equal an initial 28 per cent cut in TransCo's charges, and by an extra 5 per cent thereafter. Ms Spottiswoode softened the price review to allow British Gas to spend more on safety, and agreed to raise her valuation of TransCo's assets by £700 million. Both changes softened the impact of the new price controls on BG revenue. British Gas further has the option of seeking a new review of prices after three or four years.

Shooters hire PR firm to sharpen up their image

continued from page 1

Supporters in gun clubs throughout the country are urged to build relations with the local media — getting them "to run pro-shooting stories" and inviting them to rifle ranges — write letters and lobby MPs.

Ministers have been torn between the gun lobby and public opinion. They were quick to distance themselves from the Home Affairs Committee's rejection of the handgun ban campaign. Last night the shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, denounced the BSSC document as proof of "high-pressure lobbying" which had influenced the committee's six Tory members. Sunday's Observer revealed that their sole adviser, an ex-police superintendent, Colin Greenwood, is a pro-gun lobbyist and editor of Guns Review.

Furtive VAT moves prepare tax 'cuts'

Michael White Political Editor

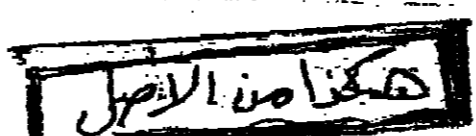
THE Treasury has discreetly embarked on a series of tax rises, including the imposition of VAT on allergy-relief equipment and incontinence pads, as a means of closing the "black hole" in the public finances.

One restriction will halve the six years in which claims can be made for the repayment of wrongly paid VAT. Customs and Excise last night confirmed that little noticed orders in recent weeks have closed VAT loopholes worth hundreds of millions of pounds. Stronger indignation is likely when public awareness focuses on the decision to end VAT zero-rating for what Customs and Excise calls "certain vacuum cleaners and other products that claim to benefit people with asthma, hay fever and other allergies".

charitable nursing homes are also being acted upon, according to papers obtained by the Liberal Democrats. The loophole-closing forms part of a wider Treasury series of backdoor tax increases designed to pave the way for Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to cut the headline rate of income tax by 2p in his November 26 budget. The Lib Dems said yesterday, Labour fear Mr Clarke may persuade voters to forget the £17 billion rise in taxes since the 1992 election campaign, which left a £50 billion gap between spending and revenues.

"We expect Ken Clarke to cut and run in a cynical attempt to buy votes with unsustainable pre-election tax bribes regardless of the damage," Malcolm Bruce, the Lib Dem Treasury spokesman, told a Westminster press conference. Most of the predicted 2p cut in the 24p basic rate of income tax will have been recouped by £2.5 billion in "backdoor Tory tax rises on petrol, on tobacco, on (consumption) taxes and by raising VAT revenues," he said. Lib Dem calculations point to Mr Clarke obtaining £1 billion by higher taxes on petrol and cigarettes, with £1.2 billion coming from last year's "trick" of announcing higher education spending, but making Labour and Lib Dem councils finance it.

GATES OPEN 4PM HYDE PARK SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER TICKETS £7.50 PLUS BOOKING FEE PICCADILLY DANCE ORCHESTRA CANTABILE MAESTEG & DISTRICT MALE VOICE CHOIR BBC PROMS in the Park Live link to the Royal Albert Hall for part two of the Last Night of the Proms JAMES GALWAY MARIA EWING LABEQUE SISTERS



Two police forces reject use of incapacitants □ Critics and victim's relatives call for more tests Howard approves 'safe' CS sprays

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

TWO police forces have announced that they will not issue their officers with CS sprays, despite the Home Secretary's go-ahead for the incapacitants yesterday. Chief constables were told that, after nearly six months of trials, the CS sprays had been approved for use nationally.

uses to be an excellent addition to the means which police officers have of defending themselves. It does not require strength to use and is therefore especially valuable to female officers who are sadly sometimes targeted for attack by criminals.

A single stream that brings blisters and burns

THE substance in CS spray is a white crystalline solid known as CS, after Carson and Stoughton who first synthesised it in 1928. The solid is dissolved in a solvent and comes out of the canister in a single stream. It is not a gas, although often wrongly described as such. It is dis-

pensed from a hand-held aerosol and has a range of 8 to 14 feet. The spray causes streaming eyes and nose, eyelid spasm, salivation and a burning sensation in the throat and nose. There may also be some reddening and blistering of the skin, similar to severe sunburn. Any-

one sprayed has to be seen by a police doctor, and this practice will continue for at least the next 12 months. CS spray was preferred to a "pepper spray" which some senior officers favoured, but which the Home Office believed was too risky. Officers using it have to undergo training.

Home Office-issue CS spray. They were now working with a British manufacturer to develop a safer and more operationally useful spray, a spokeswoman said. Reservations were also expressed by Liberty, its campaigns co-ordinator, Liz Parratt, said: "CS spray takes us one step further away from policing by consent rather than coercion. In the long term, this trend will continue to undermine the public cooperation, trust and confidence on which the police rely in order to do their job."



Sgt Debbie Conlon of West Midlands police demonstrates a CS gas spray at Oldham police station. PHOTOGRAPH: TRUDI BLACK

"This is a major civil rights issue. It is disgraceful that this announcement has taken place before the results of the trial have been made public. It makes a mockery of the principle of public consultation on important issues of public safety."

Piara Power, Newham Monitoring Project
"I am satisfied this is a safe substance. There is no evidence that CS spray was responsible for that very regrettable death."
Michael Howard, Home Secretary, yesterday



Amie Sey, with daughters Maimuna, aged 6, and six-month-old Ramutuly. Her husband, Ibrahim, died after being sprayed. PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MOORE

A potent weapon to calm violent confrontations

CS SPRAYS have been used on 582 occasions during the trial period, and drawn, but not used, on 350 occasions, writes Duncan Campbell. Among them were:
□ In Cleveland, six officers attended a fight involving 40 people at a social club in which glasses and chairs were being used as weapons. The officers restrained the fighters and made arrests without injury to themselves. The chairman and secretary of the club thanked the police for their action.
□ Police in London were called to a home where a teenage girl was assaulting staff and smashing property. When police arrived she armed herself with broken glass, threatened the officers and said she would injure herself. She was sprayed and restrained.

Too soon, says dead man's family

Questions remain over a death after use of the spray, while trial results are unknown. Duncan Campbell on the critics' fears

THE family of a man who died shortly after police used a CS spray to restrain him yesterday attacked the go-ahead for the spray to be made available to all police officers. Ibrahim Sey, aged 29, a Ghanaian-born asylum-seeker, died on March 16 this year in Ilford, Essex, after police were called to his home following a domestic disturbance. Several officers attended and he was sprayed with the incapacitant. He was handcuffed and taken to the police station and later

place before the results of the trial have been made public. It makes a mockery of the principle of public consultation on important issues of public safety." He said the spray should be banned immediately. Asked about Mr Sey's death yesterday, Michael Howard said: "I am satisfied that this is a safe substance. There is no evidence that the CS spray was responsible for that very regrettable death." A spokeswoman for the Police Complaints Authority, which investigated the death of Mr Sey, said all its interviews had been completed but another medical report was awaited. A date for the inquest has not been set and it may not take place until next year.

Breaking up is easy with Divorce

Jonathan Freedland in Washington
STEP aside Brides magazine and Weddings Monthly, America's news-stands now have a more pragmatic addition: Divorce magazine, the world's first journal dedicated solely to the business of breaking up. Targeting the million American couples who split up each year, Divorce offers advice on finding a good lawyer, a sympathetic therapist and an estate agent with experience in selling the house and splitting the proceeds. There's even a problem page, with tips for philanderers on whether to tell their soon-to-be-ex they're having an affair. For the publisher Dan Couvrette, Divorce — launched this month with a



romance," Mr Couvrette said. It's just that during his own divorce — "probably the most challenging period of my life" — he struggled to find information beyond a few weighty tomes. "Magazines are very accessible, they're not as daunting as a 300-page book." There is no shortage of advisers. Besides lawyers and accountants, Divorce runs ads from masseurs, beauty salons and Glenn's Custom Photo — offering to airbrush out a former lover. The Canadian-based Mr Couvrette understands his readership. "Haven't been on a date in 15 years? We'll show you some great new ways to find Mr or Ms Right in the '90s." A more sober note is struck in the legal advice pages. They remind readers that if they live in Illinois and their spouse tries to kill them — it may be grounds for divorce. Divorce also advises: "Don't choose a lawyer based on physical attractiveness." Divorce appears in Chicago as Bill Clinton and the Democratic Party gather in the city next week to cast themselves as the guardians of family values. The magazine insists it is not at odds with America's conservative trend. Instead, Divorce is part of a growing school of sociologists and counsellors who champion the so-called good divorce — believing that, handled properly, a break-up can enhance a couple's relationship with each other and with their children. Mr Couvrette himself is now anxiously looking for a partner — to form a joint venture and publish a British edition of Divorce.

"The alarm is sounding on my vent, and I'm making this clicking noise with my throat — clk, clk, clk — and the security guy comes in and asks, 'Are you all right, Mr Reeve?' . . . All he needed to do was put the hose back in place, but I guess his instructions were that his job was security."

G2 cover story



Bank Holiday special offer Vehicle Rescue from just £26.50 a year

LEVEL OF COVER	WAS	NOW	SAVING YOU†
TOTAL PROTECTION	£99.00	£82.50	£16.50*
COMPREHENSIVE	£75.00	£60.00	£15.00*
ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE	£29.50	£15.00	£14.50*
RECOVERY ONLY	£29.00	£15.50	£13.50*

OFFER VALID WHEN YOU JOIN ON OR BEFORE SATURDAY 31st AUGUST.

Right now you can save up to £16.50* on vehicle rescue. Prices start from just £26.50 for a full twelve months cover anywhere in the UK. But hurry - this special offer is only valid on or before Saturday 31st August.

- 35 minute average call-out time.**
- Most problems repaired at the roadside.
- All recoveries are completed in one direct journey.
- 6000 skilled mechanics always on call.
- 3 million members.
- 25 years experience.

FOR INSTANT COVER CALL FREE NOW
0800 000 111

Lines open Monday to Saturday 8am to 8pm and Sunday 9am to 8pm.

†From questionnaire returned. Savings shown include £9.50 enrolment fee. Cars registered before 31.7.97 are subject to an additional fee of £12.50.

POST TODAY • NO STAMP NEEDED

To: GREEN FLAG National Breakdown, FREEPOST, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS99 2GF. Please send me more information about GREEN FLAG National Breakdowns.

Name (Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms)

Home Tel, including STD code

Address

Town

County Postcode

As the row over admen's peerages grows, Martin Linton explodes the myth that life in the Lords is all ermine and ear trumpets

'Working peers' confound popular whiff of oxymoron

PEOPLE find it difficult to believe in the existence of "working peers". There is a faint whiff of the oxymoron about them — like "intelligence officers" or "conviction politicians" — or "intelligent officers" or "conviction politicians". The popular mythology is that people only go to the House of Lords if they are hereditary peers and don't need to work, or are retired politicians too old to work. But for years now the parties have been sending in an annual infusion of "working peers" to liven the place up and bring the average age down. Ideally they are under 50 and prepared to give up their jobs to devote most of their time to the Lords.

On the Tory side most of them are still "reward appointments" — businessmen with little time to give to the humdrum business of parliamentary debates. But Labour and Liberal Democrat working peers tend to be former MPs or council leaders enjoying a new lease of life on the red leather benches.

Labour's star turn this year has been Baroness Hollis of Heigham, appointed at 49 when she was plain Pat Hollis, former leader of Norwich council and candidate for Great Yarmouth — but now the party's spokeswoman in the Lords on social security, disability, housing and local government.

On top of all that she played a key role in two of the most dramatic government reverses in the Lords

Tory guru defends ennobled 'demon poster' masterminds

ADVERTISING guru Sir Tim Bell yesterday leapt to the defence of the new Tory peers criticised for masterminding the "demon" poster of Tony Blair.

As Labour branded Maurice Saatchi, 50, chairman of the M&C Saatchi agency, and Peter Gummer, 54, younger brother of Environment Secretary John Gummer and chairman of Shandwick public relations, "Lords of Lies" for their role in devising the New Labour, New Danger campaign, the third man behind it insisted it had John Major's backing — although he claimed the party chairman "on his own" had approved the "demon" advertisement.

Sir Tim, who helped Baroness

ess Thatcher win three elections, accused critics of the new peers of being "hypocritical". He added: "Maurice Saatchi was very active in keeping the Labour Party out of power for 20 years. Of course they don't like him."

He insisted the poster of Mr Blair with red eyes was based on comments by shadow cabinet member Clare Short about the "dark forces" surrounding the Labour leader.

He added: "There's been a lot of advertisements like this. Go back to the SDP's ad about Foot having no brain and Thatcher having no heart and yesterday's men and so on. "It is all a bit hypocritical for the politicians to run around saying 'how dare you'."

ally persuade people if your argument is good. "Argument and reason and even compassion can be heard in a way that often cuts across party lines. You can persuade cross-benchers to vote with you and you can sometimes persuade Tories to abstain. "People aren't trying to prove themselves — they're not hungry young people ambitious for office, and therefore there isn't the competitive edge. They'll listen to your arguments."

Like other working peers, she doesn't like to use her title. "I'm an academic doctor, but I don't use the title doctor outside a university. In the same way 'baroness' is a job description. I only use it in Westminster. I would much prefer it was something like 'alderwoman'."

In any case the pay isn't exactly lordly. At £33 a day it may sound generous, but it is only paid 140 days a year and works out at £4,620 a year for full-time attenders. The housing allowance is larger, but doesn't pay for a round-the-year London flat.

"I'm not pleading poverty. I cope perfectly well. But I don't break even. I basically dip into my savings," she says.

"If you live in London you can no doubt keep a job going in the morning. But if you live outside London, you have got to give up your job. I sometimes don't know till 11am that I have got to reply to a statement at 3pm."

this year: the "pension-splitting" amendment to the Family Law Bill and the "three days grace" amendment to the Asylum & Immigration Bill.

She was headhunted for the Lords. "The key question was how much time was I willing to give. I said I was willing to be full time, so the answer was yes." She gave up her job as reader in modern history at the University of East Anglia so she could attend the Lords four days a week.

She reckons to make up to 30 speeches a week in the Lords, along with meetings with her Commons front bench counterparts and briefings from countless pressure groups.

Along with other working peers on Labour's front bench — such as former Greater London Council leader Andrew Mackintosh and former merchant banker Charles Williams — she has found that good arguments and reasonableness can sometimes defeat the Government in the Lords in a way that would never work in the Commons.

"I agree the Commons is what matters. It is where the adrenalin is. But because the Lords isn't such a laddish place, you can actu-



Lady Hollis, Labour's star, was headhunted for the Lords and spends four days a week there. A typical day is described below

House work

Wednesday July 17
 9am: Leaves home in Fimico. Walks to Lords
 10: Meets Chris Smith and Labour social security team in Commons
 11.30: Weekly meeting of Parliamentary Labour Party

1.15pm: Attends drinks meeting for Labour front bench team in Lords.
 Misses meeting of Labour women MPs and peers also at 1.15
2.30: Asks question on housing benefit fraud at Lords question time
3.14: On front bench for third reading of Housing Bill

4.00, 5.31 and 5.56: Votes on Opposition amendments. Between votes is briefed on Social Security Bill; meets Shelter to plan Housing Bill amendments
7.16-9.45: Speaks 22 times and moves four amendments during debate
11.13: House adjourns

Health properties of garlic disputed by doctors

Jane Alfred

THE health properties of garlic — not to mention its fabled powers as a vampire repellent — have made it a modern panacea, but it may not be all that it is cracked up to be on the medical front, doctors say today.

The belief that it can help prevent heart disease by lowering cholesterol and reducing blood pressure may be a myth.

Hugh Neil and colleagues, from Oxford university and the Radcliffe infirmary, found that the cholesterol levels of their patients were not affected by garlic. They believe its health benefits have been overestimated, and question

whether it is any more than a tasty addition to food.

However, Lichtwer Pharma, the company which produces the garlic tablet used by the doctors in their study, disputed the findings: "We have a weight of data which far surpasses the findings of this particular study."

The Oxford team looked at 115 patients with raised cholesterol levels, who were given either garlic or placebo tablets for six months.

Reporting the findings in the Journal of the Royal College of Physicians, the researchers say: "At the end of the six month trial there were no significant differences between the groups. "An effective, safe, inexpensive and naturally occurring

compound would be an attractive alternative to fat-lowering drug therapy for use when dietary measures have proved inadequate," they point out. "Our results suggest that the use of garlic for this purpose is likely to lead to smaller reductions in blood cholesterol than previously suggested."

Sonia Job, marketing manager for Lichtwer Pharma, said: "Our approved claim for Kwai (the trade name for their brand of garlic tablet) is cholesterol."

She said research had shown garlic to be particularly beneficial for sufferers of high cholesterol or blood pressure, which she felt the study had not taken into account.

FROM HONEYMOONS TO NEW SALOONS.

Planning the perfect honeymoon on the island of your dreams? Or maybe you've seen the ideal car to suit your growing family? With a special offer on Abbeyloans available until 31.10.96, why not treat yourself to a little Abbeyness? Simply call us Monday to Friday 8.00am to 9.00pm or Saturday 8.00am to 4.00pm with your bank details ready and quote reference 7161.

0345 54 55 56

ABBEY NATIONAL DIRECT
<http://www.abbeynational.co.uk>

ABBEYLOAN

Get more for your money, buy Cellphones

PHILIPS

NEW GSM MODEL FIZZ

- Up to 75 mins talk-time
- Up to 45 hrs standby-time
- 45 name/number memory
- Rapid recharge
- Complete package with standard battery and charger
- Dimensions 162x60x17mm
- Weight 210g

VODAFONE PERSONAL WORLD

Contract	£35.25 (£30 + VAT)
Monthly Rental	£17.60 (£15 + VAT)
Peak Rate Daily	35.25p per min (£0p + VAT)
Off Peak Rate	11.75p per min (£0p + VAT)

3 MONTHS FREE LINE RENTAL

LIFETIME PRODUCT WARRANTY

Our Lifetime Product Warranty covers your phone against electrical or mechanical breakdown for as long as you remain a Vodafone UK subscriber.

Cellphones

LIMITED OFFER

£4.99 INC. VAT

- FREE LINE RENTAL - for 3 months worth £52.89 inc. VAT
- FREE ACCESSORIES - in-car adaptor and leather case together worth £49.98 inc. VAT
- LATEST PHILIPS - the slimmest phone in its class
- ONE SECOND BILLING - you only pay for the airtime you use
- BEST COVERAGE - with digital call clarity and security

QUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND
 Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREEPHONE 0500 000 888

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 5PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM
 CLOSED BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT HANDY WHEN YOU CALL
 AND QUOTE REF 472. MONEY WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCH CHARGES

Other subject to status and a standard service contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd, 125 Upper Richmond Road, Richmond upon Thames, TW9 1LN
 Full terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright. Expires by 29/07/97

Council

E

AGIF

£10

0800 29129

سكنا من الاصل

صكنا من الامل

Environment Secretary sets stringent rules for clean air but fails to offer resources to achieve them and puts off target dates to 2005

Gummer passes buck on pollution



Pedestrian and traffic management at work in York, where car-free streets improve the quality of life. PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

JOHN Gummer yesterday set stringent maximum levels for air pollution to safeguard health, but failed to provide any resources to achieve them.

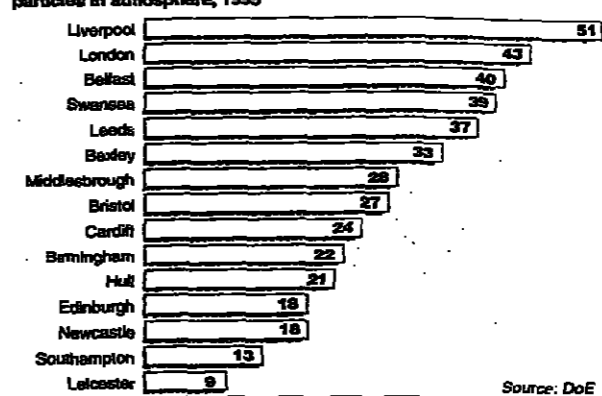
Local authorities, charged by the Government to come up with plans to cut pollution, said it was not clear the proposals were viable. Environment groups said decisive action was needed to make it work.

Achieving the targets was put off until 2005 to allow European directives to come into force and fuel refining to be adapted. Meanwhile local authorities can tackle what Mr Gummer called "local hot spots" with their own plans which may include a permit or pricing system to allow only essential vehicles into a town.

The National Air Quality Strategy acknowledged that traffic was the main cause of the problem, and there must be changes in planning and transport policies which would reduce reliance on the car. It did not specify what these would be, and Mr Gummer would only say that privatising the railways would help to get more passengers and freight off roads.

Air quality

Number of days exceeding recommended levels of dangerous particles in atmosphere, 1995



Toby Harris, chairman of the Association for London Government, said: "Mr Gummer is passing the buck to local government. We are being asked to make schemes to clean up vehicles self-financing by fining people. They want teams to monitor traffic, but the police have to stop the vehicles, and they want paying up front for their time. It is not clear that any of this can work."

Mr Harris said closing roads or areas to traffic was not a solution because it merely moved the problem elsewhere. What was needed was proper investment in public transport, but the Government was not prepared to help pay for that.

Integrated public transport system

Michael Meacher, Labour's environment spokesman, said: "After 17 years of neglect of public transport the Tories have suddenly noticed that excessive car use causes pollution. Even the modest air quality targets that have been set out cannot be met without a major shift in policy towards clean, green public transport."

For some of the pollutants, such as carbon monoxide and lead, current government policies will achieve the reduction in levels — with the already planned use of catalytic converters and lead free petrol. For others such as nitrogen dioxide, particles, ozone and sulphur dioxide, current policies are, in the Government's words, "unlikely to be enough to meet the targets".

Traffic nearing gridlock in pedestrian city

David Ward parks and rides to York

JUST past the Tadcaster brewery on the A64 there is near gridlock, with enough messy emissions to make John Gummer flume. And this is York, one of Britain's most environmentally sound cities, with the largest pedestrianised area.

It is race day in York, and a five mile crawl leads to the Askham Bar park and ride terminus, whence a spruce White Line bus trundles purposefully towards the Minster.

"I must admit I don't think about pollution much at all. The car is a convenient way to travel. My wife and I each have one and we use both to get to work, even though it's only five miles. Public transport is not much help."

In the city centre (traffic-free for six hours a day) a baritone sings his way through Hymns Ancient and Modern outside Marks & Spencer on Parliament Street.

The Shambles itself is heaving with visitors lost in the crush. Colonel Dwight Adams and his wife Helen, from Florida, where the air quality is still quite good, reflect on this and make for a wider street.

"It's important to have car-free zones," he says. "You may get stepped on by fellow tourists here, but they won't kill you."

Councils pioneer 'clean' travel

Gas and electrically powered vehicles are in the vanguard of attempts to find different modes of transport, James Meikle reports

EXPERIMENTS to prove the future of transport, locally electric or gas-powered are under way in local authorities out to set an environmentally friendly example.

Denmark have been used by officials for three years. "They have been cost-effective. To get 25 miles costs about 25 pence in electricity," said David Botwright, the council's environmental support manager.

environmental thing for us." Coventry city council will be partners with Powergen, the Royal Mail and East Midlands Electricity during trials of the new electric Peugeot 106 car, already on sale in France. It would be the first traditional looking motor car powered electrically to be used in this country although some specialist companies already convert vehicles.

New Peugeot vans will also be tried and with a 56 mph top speed and 50-mile range, the old image of electric vehicles as 15 mph milk floats will be dispelled, say their supporters.

A GIFT OF UP TO £10,000 WITHOUT EVEN MOVING HOME!

FOR MORE DETAILS Call FREE anytime between 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat

0800 291 291

Please quote ref GU2208

Current interest rate 6.99% typical APR 7.2% variable

CASHBACK PLUS

Chelsea BUILDING SOCIETY

Cost of bad air quality

□ About 25 people a day in Britain die prematurely because of tiny particles emitted by vehicle exhausts.

□ 20,000 hospital admissions a year are blamed on air pollution.

A neat idea at Homebase. Storage with tidy savings.

Curver Unicrate Choice of colours £27.99 EACH Save £1.20

'Tidy Kids' Underbed Storage Trolley £18.99 Save £2

'Tidy Kids' 4 Cube Store 'n' Stack Unit £24.99 Save £3

'Tidy Kids' Toy Chest £22.99 Save £7

Arizona Storage Box Choice of colours £9.99 Save £3

Lee Rowan 9 Pair Shoe Rack £7.49 Save £1.30

Lee Rowan Closet Organiser 3'-5' £29.99 Save £3

Lee Rowan Cement Rack £16.99 Save £5.50

SAINSBURY'S HOMEBASE

HOUSE AND GARDEN CENTRES

Good ideas cost less at Homebase.

Bank Holiday: Monday 26th 8am-7pm - Monday-Thursday 8am-8pm - Friday 8am-9pm - Saturday 8am-8pm - Sunday 10am-4pm

Murderers as young as 10 make up a growing - and often deadlier - wave of 'super-predators'

Natural born teen killers plague US

Christopher Reed
in Los Angeles

THE 14-year-old boy had told friends he was looking for someone to shoot. He left with his gun, saying he would return soon. Ten minutes later he came back to boast: "I did it!" The victim was his mother, dead with a single bullet through her forehead.

The trend is strongest among Hispanic and black teenagers in the south and west, where the murder rate is increasing fastest. This summer certainly looked like a killing season for the children academics call "super-predators".

Prosecutors in Watts, the black Los Angeles ghetto, this month charged a boy of 12 with joining in the gang rape of a girl of 13, and shooting a woman of 22 who tried to intervene. The rape took place next door to the elderly woman's home, in an empty, vermin-infested house used by drug takers.

In June a girl of 12 was put in juvenile care for five years in California after admitting that she tried to kill her schoolteacher by pouring rat poison in a soft drink. The girl complained that the teacher had been too strict, and said that she had planned the murder for two months with two boys, aged 12 and 11.

Earlier this month in Texas, another girl of 12 was sentenced to 20 years in state custody for beating to death a two-year-old girl by striking her more than a dozen times. The child died from a blow that ruptured her liver. In Colorado a boy of 10 murdered a baby girl of 18 months by beating her with a chain.

In Los Angeles in June a boy of 14 was confined until the age of 25 for shooting his mother dead in a dispute over a chocolate biscuit. Another boy of 14 was sentenced to 25

years-to-life in San Diego, California, in June for shooting dead a pizza delivery man who refused to hand over the order without payment.

More typical of big cities are gang shootings, and the children involved are becoming younger. Professor Jack Levin, a criminologist at Northeastern University in Boston, says: "We are seeing younger and younger children committing more and more violence and murders - hideous crimes - and it's a trend not just in America but in any Western society that has similar problems."

A boy aged 14 shot his mother dead in a dispute over a chocolate biscuit; another shot dead a pizza delivery man

Earlier this month in Texas, another girl of 12 was sentenced to 20 years in state custody for beating to death a two-year-old girl by striking her more than a dozen times. The child died from a blow that ruptured her liver. In Colorado a boy of 10 murdered a baby girl of 18 months by beating her with a chain.

Youngsters in early teenage can be deadlier. They may kill for trivial reasons and have less understanding of what death means. They also kill for power, thrills or revenge, he says, in a society where family ties have been broken, and film and television violence make murder seem commonplace.

"They don't consider the consequences of their actions. To them a jacket or a pair of sneakers is as important as cash to an adult bank robber.

News in brief

Haitian opposition members shot dead

A HAITIAN opposition leader and another member of his party were killed by unidentified gunmen on Tuesday afternoon, police said. Pastor Antoine Leroy, the number two in the conservative Mobilisation for National Development (MDN) party, and Jacques Dorval were killed near Mr Dorval's home in Delmas 19, a Port-au-Prince suburb. "Ten armed men in two vehicles shot and killed two civilians," said a United Nations spokesman, Eric Falt. Dorval's body was left in the back of his pickup truck about a block away from his home. He was handcuffed and had been shot in the head. Leroy's body was sprawled outside Dorval's house. Neighbours speculated that Dorval had been kidnapped, perhaps to disclose the whereabouts of Leroy. A local magistrate said both men were holding pistols.

CIA named in drug ring report

CIA-run contras in Nicaragua benefited from the profits of a drug ring in the San Francisco Bay area during the 1980s, the San Jose Mercury News has claimed. Attempts to prosecute the ring's kingpin were thwarted by the CIA, possibly to cover up ties between the traffickers and contra leaders, the newspaper said in reports based on recently declassified federal documents, court testimony and interviews. It also claims that the drug network sold tons of cocaine to Los Angeles gangs and is partially responsible for the city's crack problem. The money flow began after the CIA combined several armies to create the anti-communist Fuerza Democratica Nicaraguense in 1981, the newspaper reported. The same year, the drug ring sold almost a ton of cocaine to the Crisp and Bloods, notorious Los Angeles gangs, for \$54 million (\$36 million), said Oscar Danilo Hemand Reyes, a former FDN leader and government informant. There is a saying that the ends justify the means," he said during testimony in 1994. "So we started raising money for the contra revolution." — AP, San Jose

Police suggest child sex link

SOUTH AFRICAN police said yesterday there could be a link between the child sex scandal rocking Belgium and the disappearance of five girls in Pretoria up to eight years ago. "The modus operandi... as to what happened in Belgium and what's happening here in South Africa seems to be very, very closely related," said Pretoria's police director, Reggie Mariemuthoo. "The modus operandi in which our girls were abducted and kept in secret cellars in houses is similar to what happened in Belgium. The age groups are also similar or less the same." A South African paedophile, Ger van Rooyen, and his lover Josy Hearhof were linked by police to the disappearance of the girls, aged 11 to 13. Van Rooyen shot Hearhof and himself six years ago as police closed in. The girls were never traced, despite a thorough excavation of van Rooyen's home. The girls were said to have been kept in a cellar. Asked about the possibility of an international child sex ring, Mr Mariemuthoo said: "It is possible. Unfortunately we don't have any information on those lines at the moment." — Reuters, Johannesburg

Fears grow of Tamil exodus

INDIA and Sri Lanka are watching with concern the arrival of host of hundreds of Sri Lankan refugees in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, fearing a full-scale exodus. Nearly 800 Tamil refugees from the Pessalai area of Mannar Island in north-western Sri Lanka have reached India in the past week — 420 on Sunday alone. Many are from camps administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. They told reporters in Rameswaram, at the southern-most tip of India, that they had been harassed by government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels, and that the UN camps were short of food. The Sri Lankan government, meanwhile, said it would send more food and other supplies to rebel-held areas, as fears grew for some 200,000 people displaced in a month of fighting around the town of Kilinochchi. — Suzanne Goldberg, New Delhi

US reconsidering jet deal

THE United States is debating whether to delay or cancel an agreement to sell Indonesia at least nine F-16 fighter jets, in the light of Jakarta's serious crackdown on political dissent. Government human rights officials and some prominent members of Congress want the sale shelved because of the raids on the headquarters of President Suharto's opponents and the arrest of as many as 200 activists. Other officials, including some at the national security council, want the sale, estimated to be worth \$200 million (£135 million), to go ahead. They say that F-16s are not the sort of weapons used to repress dissent. The administration will have to make its decision soon if it hopes to sell the planes this year, because Congress adjourns in October for the elections. Congress traditionally gets a 30-day notice of major arms sales. — New York Times

Doctor kills himself on plane

A DOCTOR used a Swiss army knife to stab himself to death on a British Airways plane after it landed in Geneva, police said yesterday. The Swiss man, in his 30s, plunged the knife several times into his heart in front of other passengers and died minutes later. He was returning from a trip to the United States, where he was said to have suffered psychological problems. The doctor's wife and a psychologist were waiting for him at the airport. There was said to be no panic among other passengers, many of whom had already disembarked. — Reuters, Geneva



RWANDAN Hutu refugees (above) climb on to a United Nations truck at the Magara refugee camp in Burundi yesterday to be returned to Rwanda. Up to 4,000 refugees left since they fled in 1994. Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Rwanda, said 3,000 to 4,000 refugees left Magara camp before heavy rain slowed the exodus. Refugees accuse the Tutsi-dominated Burundian army of harassing them and say they are leaving because they fear for their lives. — Reuters, Butare. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID GUTTENFELDER

Corn health scare in US threatens world food prices

Martin Walker
in Washington

THE discovery of high levels of a carcinogen in corn grown in Texas — where the United States harvest begins — has provoked fears of a new spurt of food price inflation. A health scare about the US corn crop could have serious implications for world food prices, as well as for American corn producers.

Aflatoxin, a potent carcinogen, is found in a mould produced on corn by an airborne fungus. This year's droughts across the southern US provided ideal conditions for the fungus's spread. "It is a high level [of contamination] and it is serious. The levels are of considerable concern throughout Texas," a state food scientist, George Lattner, said yesterday. The US produces 250 million tons a year — half the world's corn crop. It accounts for almost 80 per cent of world corn exports, much of it foodstuff for livestock.

South Korea imported 9 million tons last year, but yesterday it announced food quarantine rules would be tightened. The concern now is that other Asian countries may follow South Korea. "It will cause serious problems to Korean buyers since we import most of our corn requirement from the United States," said Yoo Yang-dong, a trader at Cheiljedang Corp in Seoul. Growing demand in China and Asia has already helped to double corn prices this year, and tripled them over the past two years.

The South Korean food and drug administration said that it had found aflatoxin traces of 300 parts per billion. In the US, 20ppb is the limit for human consumption, and 30ppb for livestock. In South Korea, the limit for livestock is 50ppb.

The situation may not be catastrophic, since the main American cornbelt — in Iowa and Indiana — has been spared the drought, and other fodder can be substituted for corn. But the aflatoxin threat will add to the pressure on already soaring food prices, at a time when all the major economies hoped that inflation had finally been tamed.

Droughts across the southern US provided ideal conditions for the fungus's spread



Felipe Trejo kneels bound in Santiago Tolman, Mexico. Earlier, he and two other would-be robbers had shot three people. Villagers then beat Trejo and threatened to kill him if any of the casualties died

Whitewater still a trial to Clinton

Martin Walker
in Washington

BEHIND the frenzied preparations for next week's Democratic Party convention, the whole American political establishment is hanging on the word of James McDougal. Mr McDougal and his then wife, Susan, were business partners of Bill and Hillary Clinton in the failed Whitewater property venture which lies at the heart of a special investigation into the president's personal and political finances.

Prosecutors allege that Mr Clinton, as governor of Arkansas in the mid-1990s, twice pressed an Arkansas banker to lend Mr McDougal \$300,000 (£200,000) in the name of Susan McDougal. Part of the money, they allege, was fraudulently used to benefit the Whitewater venture. Earlier this week Ms McDougal was sentenced to two years for fraud in the case. Mr Clinton's successor as Arkansas governor, Jim Guy Tucker, was sentenced to four years probation. But the sentencing of Mr McDougal, originally scheduled for this Monday, has been postponed until November 12, two weeks after the presidential election. He is now talking to prosecutors about co-operating in return for a lighter sentence on which he is convicted on May 28.

The judge ordered Mr McDougal and his lawyers to say nothing about the reasons for the postponement. But speculation is rife about conversations held with special counsel Kenneth Starr in the Texarkana mobile home where the impoverished and ailing Mr McDougal lives. But the timing is all. Any political damage to Mr Clinton will have to come before November 5, election day. Mr McDougal poses two main threats to the president. He has told reporters that he "held back some stuff" — documents which are supposed to take the Whitewater affair yet further. And although his credibility is thoroughly shredded, he could raise the possibility of a

perjury charge against the president if he refutes Mr Clinton's sworn denials of wrongdoing. The president testified that he had not taken part in meetings at a site office in Little Rock with Mr McDougal and a traffic court judge, David Hale, the key prosecution witness. The president firmly denied the claim by Judge Hale (himself a convicted criminal who was co-operating with the prosecution in return for immunity) that Mr Clinton had pressed him at the alleged meeting "to help Jim and me out" with a loan. White House sources yesterday dismissed other rumours among top Republicans, that a sealed indictment against Mrs Clinton, relating to her role in another scandal, dubbed Travelgate, could be imminent. Meanwhile the Whitewater embarrassment has become a publishing phenomenon. The bookshops are piled high with Whitewater tomes, almost all of them hostile to the president. Partners in Power, by the

Fujimori tries to 'reinterpret' law to stand for third term in Peru

Jane Diaz-Lima
in Lima

PRESIDENT Alberto Fujimori is seeking a change in Peruvian law to let him stand for a third term in 2000. His movement, the Change 90-New Majority Alliance, introduced a bill yesterday to "authentically interpret" the constitutional clause on presidential re-election, which it says is ambiguous. The clause states that a president can be re-elected only once to a consecutive term. Government MPs say it must be made clear that the clause covers only elections held after the constitution took effect in 1993. This would exclude Mr Fujimori's first term and allow him to stand in 2000. Earlier this week, the congressional constitutional committee approved this interpretation of the law, despite opposition protests that it was illegal. Opposition MPs have called the bill a "coup" to make Mr Fujimori the

equivalent of a king or president-for-life. If the bill is approved by congress today and becomes law, it will be the second time that the government has altered the law to allow Mr Fujimori to remain in power. When he won the presidency in 1990, the constitution prohibited re-election. In 1992 Mr Fujimori dissolved parliament and sacked top judges in an "auto-coup" backed by the military. A new congressional body, in which his alliance held a majority, then rewrote the constitution to permit re-election once. A referendum approved this. Jorge Avedano, a former law college dean and an opposition MP, said congress did not have the right to pass interpretative laws on the constitution. He said constitutional reform required either a majority vote in congress, ratified by a public referendum, or approval twice by two-thirds of congress. Mr Fujimori's administration falls short of a two-thirds majority.

'Ronnie Reagan never stopped talking, even though he never had anything to say except what he had just read in the Reader's Digest. Nancy was born with a silver ladder in her hand'

GORE VIDAL

When an actor like Penn puts on a ton of hairspray it's called commitment. When an actress like Stone chooses not to wash her hair it's called presumption.

David Runciman, G2 page 7

سكنا من الالجر

صوتنا من الامم

'We suffered as well' De Klerk tells truth body

David Beresford in Cape Town

FORMER president F. W. de Klerk apologised yesterday for the miseries of apartheid, and admitted that the security forces had committed atrocities, but his statement to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was less a wholehearted mea culpa than a j'accuse.

'To my knowledge, our strategies never included assassination, murder, torture, rape or assault'

His 90-minute presentation was what many would characterise as a revisionist account of South African history. "These people — my forebears — understood oppression," he said, citing the Boer war and the death of more than 20,000 women and children in British concentration camps. "They understood resistance," he said, evoking the Afrikaners' battles to develop their own language and cultural identity. "They also experienced poverty and deprivation," he told the commissioners, recalling the drought and depression of the 1930s which drove Afrikaners from their farms and into the cities. And so it went on, as the National Party leader conjured up a picture of his Volk as victims of times and circumstances, struggling to carve their own destiny and reluctantly finding themselves on the wrong side of history. "The issues that we debated deep into the night centred on the question of how we could come to grips with this changing world on the one hand and yet retain our own national self-determination

on the other," he said of his own appearance on the political stage as a student activist. The solution we came up with was separate development. "It was, he conceded, a "deeply mistaken" strategy which "led to injustice, growing international isolation and to the escalation of a conflict that had been smouldering since the early sixties". He insisted that the mistake was recognised by National Party government as early as 1976, when the process of reform began. But the process had run into the "global ideological struggle between the West and expansionist Soviet Communism".

The ANC, he complained, had been committed "to the revolutionary seizure of power and not to peaceful and negotiated reform". The "unconventional nature of the revolutionary thrust forced the adoption of 'unconventional counter-strategies of the kind developed by the British and others in successful campaigns against insurgency and terrorism'". These counter-strategies were conducted on a "need-to-know" basis. "In dealing with the unconventional strategies from the side of government, I want to make it clear from the outset that, within my knowledge and experience, they never included the authorisation of assassination, murder, torture, rape, assault, or the like," he said.

If there were abuses of human rights by the security forces, they had to be understood in the context of unconventional war. "It would be a serious mistake to adopt a simplistic approach in judging such abuses and violations," he said. "The National Party is prepared to admit its mistakes of the past and is genuinely repentant," he added. "In our quest for reconciliation we have apologised... We have also forgiven. And we have gone on our knees before God Almighty to pray for His forgiveness, which in the final analysis is more important than anything else." The head of the South African military, General Georg Meiring, appearing before a parliamentary committee, refused yesterday to make public details of a chemical and biological weapons programme developed during the apartheid era.

Deng clan prepares for worst



Deng Xiaoping (left) poses with his youngest daughter Deng Rong, a biographer. She is the mother of his 15-year-old granddaughter, who has been enrolled at school in California

As China's ailing leader turns 92, his family is making plans for its future, writes Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

IN THE opaque world of Chinese politics, a 15-year-old girl newly enrolled at a private school near San Francisco offers a rare insight into a struggle now raging in Beijing over the legacy of Deng Xiaoping, who turns 92 today. Like the privileged offspring of many wealthy families in Britain's last major colony, the girl has a Hong Kong travel document, a Cantonese name and ample pocket money to enliven an education far from home. An important biographical detail, however, makes this teenager very different. She is the granddaughter of Deng Xiaoping. She travels under an assumed name and on Hong Kong papers instead of her Chinese passport to help disguise her identity. With Mr Deng now confined to what, sooner or later, will be his death bed in a

walled compound just north of the Forbidden City, China's first family is making plans for an uncertain and possibly perilous future. As Mr Deng's health and influence wane, so do the fortunes of his immediate family. No longer untouchable, relatives are running scared amid intriguing — if often confused — signs that the policies pioneered by Mr Deng are under increasing attack within China's faction-ridden Communist Party. Cao Siyuan, a leading economist close to the party's liberal wing, has warned of attempts not merely to dilute but to overturn Mr Deng's free-market programme. In a polemical article published in a restricted-circulation Chinese journal, he bitterly attacked a hardline tract, known as the 10,000 Words Document, circulated among senior Chinese cadres.

"Although this debate does not yet cause too much concern, we should not shy away from imagining the most awful possibility — the chance of China again being pushed into a Cultural Revolution as in 1966," Mr Cao warns. His article — entitled What do those who want to negate reform and opening-up really want to do? — has now been banned. Despite their thunder about United States "hegemonism" and "hostile foreign forces", many well-connected Chinese send their children to university in the US or other Western countries. The decision to enrol Mr Deng's granddaughter in school suggests more than a mere concern with her education, however. She will also be out of harm's way should the jostling for power spawn a repeat of the ferocious struggles that accompanied the death of Mao Zedong in 1976, and other leadership crises. The girl's mother is Deng Rong, Mr Deng's youngest daughter, a biographer and hedge-fund political lip-reader. In Beijing, the teenager was

known as Yang Yang, but she will study in the US, sources say, under a pseudonym taken from Cantonese, the Chinese dialect spoken in Hong Kong. Instead of holding celebrations in Beijing to mark Mr Deng's birthday, his chosen successor, President Jiang Zemin, and other senior leaders will be away at the seaside resort of Beidaihe, an annual summer rite that often proceeds the Communist Party's most important decisions. Though absent from the critical seaside conclave, Mr Deng will be central to the party's most sensitive debate — what comes after him? The question worries many people, particularly members

of Mr Deng's own family. A sign of their anxiety was a speech last month by Mr Deng's eldest son, Deng Pufang. According to samizdat copies of the address, he accused members of the leadership of seeking to "wholly negate" his father's free-market line. An official — and many believe bowdlerised — text issued belatedly in Beijing is far milder, but still criticises attempts to place ideology before economics. "All enterprises in the former Soviet Union were state-owned but they failed in the end," Deng Xiaoping's "basic line", his son pleaded, must "remain unchanged for 100 years". Mr Deng senior has not been seen in public since a Chinese New Year fireworks display in February 1994. He was photographed in a wheelchair staring vacantly into space. As rumours grow more insistent that he is close to death, or even dead, officials issue routine — and increasingly ominous — reassurances that he is healthy "for a

man of his age". His family is in retreat and clearly preparing for the worst. The departure of Deng Xiaoping's granddaughter for the US follows reports that her mother has come under criticism from the leadership for hawking a biography of her father to foreigners. Her husband, Major-General He Ping, also appears to be in trouble. He is said to have recently lost his job as head of the Poly Group, an arms-trading subsidiary of the People's Liberation Army. The company has been implicated in a plot to smuggle Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifles into the US. Another casualty of Mr Deng's fading authority is his youngest son, Deng Zhifang. Tainted by a corruption scandal at Shougang, a huge state-owned steelmaker once touted as a model of reform, he has lost his post as the boss of its Hong Kong subsidiary. So long as Mr Deng remains alive, his clan — and his policies — will be spared the risk of an all-out assault. His powers to protect, however, are clearly faltering.

Sending Deng's granddaughter to school in the US is about more than her education

duces the Communist Party's most important decisions. Though absent from the critical seaside conclave, Mr Deng will be central to the party's most sensitive debate — what comes after him? The question worries many people, particularly members

Court to hear Iran murder link

Ian Traynor in Berlin

THE exiled former president of Iran, Abolhassan Bani-sadr, is to give evidence before a Berlin court today, which may embarrass the Bonn government and worsen its already strained relations with Washington. Mr Bani-sadr, who has lived near Paris since being toppled by the late Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979, two years after the Iranian revolution, is expected to allege that President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran and the country's paramount religious leader Ali Khamenei personally ordered the assassination of Kurdish rebels in a Berlin restaurant in 1992.

An Iranian and four Lebanese are charged with the murder of three Iranian Kurds and their translator. The trial is almost into its fourth year but the timing of Mr Bani-sadr's appearance for the prosecution is less than happy for the Bonn government, the most powerful Western opponent of the Clinton administration's policy of ostracising Tehran and punishing countries and companies that do business with Iran. Earlier this year the Berlin justice authorities issued an arrest warrant for Iran's intelligence chief, Ali Fallahian, whom they accused of masterminding the attack at the restaurant. Mr Bani-sadr says the mur-

ders could not have occurred without the blessing of Mr Rafsanjani and Mr Khamenei. "Without their agreement, carrying out the attack was just as unlikely as it would have been without massive support from the state, for example through passports, plane tickets, money, special telephone numbers," he said in a statement in June. He said he learned of the murder plot three months before the attack and warned one of the victims, Sadiq Sharifkindi, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran. The prosecution argues that the attack was an act of state-sponsored terrorism sanctioned at the highest levels in Tehran: an argu-

ment that tends to buttress the US case for isolating and punishing "rogue states" rather than the West European case — led by Germany — for trading and talking. There was more embarrassment in Bonn this week when north German prosecutors disclosed that they had arrested two German businessmen suspected of helping Libya to develop its poison gas and chemical weapons programmes. In the 1980s German involvement in helping Libya build a chemical weapons plant at Rabta drew widespread outrage. The prosecutors say that the two men they have arrested supplied hi-tech equipment to the Libyans from 1980 to 1993.

Gadafy 'rounds up businessmen'

Kathy Evans

THE Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, has ordered the arrest of 1,500 of the country's businessmen on charges of "corruption" and dealing in foreign goods, Libyan dissidents based in London have claimed. Western diplomats in Tripoli say the detentions are typical of Col Qaddafi's erratic and "unfathomable" policies towards the business community. They also believe that "purification committees" newly set up by the authorities to root out corruption and black-marketeering have been closing shops and prominent firms. Several dealers on the gold and money exchanges have been detained, as have the heads of some leading business families from Benghazi for alleged links to rebel groups. Shops belonging to

foreigners have been burnt. An opposition spokesman in London said that among those arrested were Mohammed Abdul Jawad, the head of Libya's oil investment company, and Mohammed al-Souli, a car importer known for his connections to the country's former royal family, the Sanussis. The businessmen are believed to be held in Tajoura prison on the outskirts of Tripoli. Despite Libya's declared liberalisation policies, the private sector is still viewed with suspicion. A huge devaluation of the dinar and an influx of foreign goods which Libyans could not afford may have triggered the latest assault on the business community. Earlier this week riots were said to have broken out in a detention camp containing an estimated 1,000 Arab and African workers. About 400 of them have taken refuge in the Sudanese embassy in Tripoli,



Gadafy: erratic policies according to Khartoum. Col Qaddafi blames expatriate Arab workers for instigating a wave of Islamic dissent to his 37-year rule. The arrests coincided with reports of increased activity by Libya's Islamic militants. Four groups, some including Libyans who fought in the Afghan war, are now trying to overthrow the Qaddafi regime.

According to diplomats, the Libyan air force carried out a week-long bombing attack in the Green Mountains, an area believed to be a rebel stronghold. Up to 150 rebels were said to have been killed. One report suggested that the pilots were Cubans and Serbs working for Libya. Libyan officials dismissed the reports, saying routine military exercises were held in the region at the time. Diplomats said 45,000 troops were involved in an exercise practising counter-invasion techniques, and that the coastal city of Derna had been cordoned off. Meanwhile the Islamic Fighting Group said it had attacked a military convoy near Derna and killed 18 government troops, including the Libyan leader's brother-in-law, Major Saleh Mabrouk Qaddafi. The Libyan state news agency, Jana, said yesterday that the major was still alive.

Free Lynx Shower Gel

*Buy any two Lynx body sprays and get a free shower gel (normally £2.19 each)

superdrug

The real beauty is the price

GORE VIDAL Palimpsest

— A MEMOIR —

'Admirably candid, refreshingly indiscreet, intelligent and full of wit ... An unequivocal triumph'

WILLIAM BOYD

OUT NOW IN ABACUS PAPERBACK

Mad car disease

Government must find a cure, quickly

FREEDOM for the pike, wrote Tawney, is death to the minnow. And freedom for the motorist? Liberation for millions; but also, certainly, death for too many, and illness and misery for thousands of others, choking and fighting for breath in the kind of smogs we are starting to take for granted. The package John Gummer announced yesterday begins, at last, to address that agenda with appropriate urgency. No such urgency, however, attends his deadline, five years into the next century. Nor is there any detectable sense of urgency in his Government's financial commitment. Much of the burden is simply dumped on cash-strapped local government. Mr Gummer has got the message. A shame it hasn't got through to his colleagues.

Yet choking pollution is only one of the menacing consequences of what Margaret Thatcher called the Great Car Economy. There is also the curse of traffic noise: at a time when in other contexts people's rights to be protected from neighbourhood noise are increasingly acknowledged, they have no defence against the juggernaut thundering past the window. And unless there is drastic action, it is going to get worse. The Council for the Protection of Rural England this week published frightening evidence of what the Great Car Economy is about to do to towns and villages all over the land. In much of Britain, traffic will double or treble over the next 30 years, affecting not just major roads but what we now think of as country lanes, not even A or B roads, yet carrying comparable volumes of traffic. The lesson that building new roads encourages traffic growth has dawned at last on that great redoubt of the friends of road traffic, the Department of Transport. Road building has been drastically cut. But if the consequence of that is to cram twice as much traffic into existing road space, our last

state will be worse than our first. Politicians have ducked this problem for far too long. Parity for fear of the costs of remedial action (though in fact the additional costs of a rational transport policy would be offset by substantial savings) but also from fear of public opinion. Voters are deeply ambivalent. They accept that we can't go on muddling through as we have been; they sense that only radical change will curb the use of our roads; yet almost every practical scheme for effective action is distrusted as an unfair constraint on their freedom to drive as they choose.

But that, 30 years ago, was much how people tended to think about plans for the breathalysers. Despite much public obloquy, Labour's transport minister, Barbara Castle, insisted that legislation had to proceed in the interests of public safety. It is just as much in the public interest today to reduce our national dependence on, even addiction to, traffic by motor car. That won't be done without some measures which hurt. It won't for instance be done unless we get tough with the company car — an institution which might have been specifically devised to encourage people to clog our cities. It won't be done in a climate of deregulation: anyone who believes that it can should spend half an hour in the slipstream of one of the many antique and fume-ridden buses which privatisation has drafted on to our roads. It won't be done without that comprehensive transport policy which governments have consistently failed to provide over many decades. And it won't be done unless public opinion accepts the logical outcome of a situation it increasingly knows in its bones cannot continue. The toll which motor traffic is taking on public health and public well-being far exceeds that of most of the dangers that constantly hit the headlines. Perhaps we need to start thinking in terms of Mad Car Disease.

Turn the spotlight on standards

Is enough being done to ensure GCSE targets for 2000 are met?

FIRST the good news. This year's 16-year-olds have done well. For the ninth year in succession, the proportion gaining A to C grades in GCSE has increased. Let the 600,000 who receive their results this morning take a bow. Over half of all pupils taking English — and just under a half in mathematics and science — have achieved a C or above. In all three core subjects, the proportion obtaining an A or starred A has gone up. Before the "moaning minnies" begin to talk about falling standards, let no one forget what was going on before GCSE was introduced in 1988: two separate and inflexible examinations (GCE and CSE) were only taken by 60 per cent of secondary school pupils leaving 40 per cent without recognised qualifications. Now over 90 per cent leave with something.

Of course it is not all good news although just how bad the bad news is never emerges until later in the year, to the shame of the GCSE boards. If the boards can publish aggregate results of the 600,000 candidates, then they should also be able to provide other basic information such as the number of 16-year-olds not obtaining any passes. Once again they failed to provide such telling statistics. What we do know is that the proportion failing to get any GCSE passes has been slowly rising. It reached eight per cent last year. We also know there is a twofold gap between the top and bottom 20 per cent — with the top gaining the equivalent in points of 12 C's and the bottom only

getting the equivalent of one C. Nothing published yesterday suggests any change to these two depressing trends. There was mixed evidence about a third worry: whether schools were stopping pupils taking exams in order to climb higher up exam league tables. There was only a one per cent increase in subjects taken even though there is a three per cent rise in the number of 16-year-olds. Against this, the increase in pupils taking maths, English and science matched the demographic increase in pupil numbers. The figures seem to have been skewed by technology, which suffered a large drop in entries now that it is no longer obligatory. But there is one assured way of stopping schools excluding poor pupils from exams: value added tables which require schools to measure the progress of all their pupils.

The challenge facing the education system is not grade inflation, but whether standards are rising fast enough to achieve the target set for the year 2000: 85 per cent of 16-year-olds achieving five passes at GCSE at grades A to C or their vocational equivalent. Last year's 43.5 per cent GCSE figure was only pushed up to 68 per cent by vocational qualifications. It is the poor level of vocational qualifications where the spotlight should fall: 54 per cent of trainees drop out before completing their NVQ courses and a further third fail to achieve the necessary level. Youth training schemes just have to improve.

Mr Howard's identity crisis

At £15 a card, how many people will want it anyway?

IF ONLY the whole business of identity cards had been left where the home secretary Reggie Maudling consigned it 25 years ago when he said these would not be introduced if Britain joined the Common Market. Ever since then the idea has brought nothing but grief to the Tory party — never mind to those concerned with civil liberties. Maggie Thatcher performed a celebrated U-turn over IDs for football spectators. Four years ago the Government announced that the argument for ID cards did not justify the cost. Then the issue was re-discovered by the flogging lobby and the catch-the-scrumpers brigade: John Major was tempted to have another go at what his advisers said would be a neat way to "trump Tony Blair". Instead he and Michael Howard have come very close to trumping themselves with a sceptical public and party.

The row over what sort of symbol should be printed on the "voluntary"

card threatened to reduce a serious issue to the ultimate absurdity. The 12-star EU symbol was unacceptable to Tory Euro-sceptics. The Union Jack would be rejected by nationalists in Northern Ireland. The Royal Crest somehow managed to upset both lots simultaneously. Mr Howard, ducking to deflect criticism, hastily proclaimed that whatever happened it would not be a "European card".

That of course is precisely what it is: Mr Howard is only able to come up with a compromise solution now because Brussels has agreed that member states may add colours, markings, bar codes, national symbols and security features to the approved design. It now seems that there will now be a whole clutch of cards with different symbolic permutations to avoid offence, and Northern Ireland left out of it altogether. But at £15 quid, how many people are going to think that it will do nicely?



Letters to the Editor

No care for the children of vice

YOUR report on child prostitution in Bradford (Lead story, August 21) leads me to ask why some young people run so swiftly into the arms of the unscrupulous. More importantly for the state — why do they run from the care system? Had you approached any of the country's growing number of independent children's rights officers, you would have found that many of the answers lie in residential care practice — answers which are unpalatable for both local authorities and care organisations like Barnardos.

My own research — not a million miles away from Bradford — reveals a world where many young people in care live out a childhood of restriction locked up illegally, prevented from making telephone calls, and left to sleep in corridors when there "isn't room". The relationship between punishment and assault is blurred. It can mean being dangled upside down, having your head smashed on the floor or having your bed soaked.

Institutional catering and bulk-food buying results in never learning to shop or to cook — so imagine the embarrassment to a young person when, on leaving care, she is faced with collective cooking facilities in a seedy hostel. And sexual assault often goes unreported because young people believe that complaints will not be taken seriously.

Children and young people

need love and attention and often get neither whilst in care. If young people in care are allowed to develop the role in decision-making that the Children Act already guarantees them, the likelihood of being sexually controlled in the outside world would certainly diminish. But can the residential care sector deliver on the Children Act? Does it want to? Kenneth B Shanks, Writer/director, Virtual Image, Elgin Road, Dublin 4.

AS THE law stands it is illegal for an adult to have sex with a child. Yet men are openly allowed to cruise the streets of our cities searching for under-age girls for the purpose of sex. Not only are these men abusing our children, they are also corrupting them with offers of money. This should be stamped out, yet the police seem to take a very lachrymical attitude towards the men who are using — or abusing — these children. As your leader states, "these men seem rather immune".

Last year, a BBC North programme on under-age prostitution in Middlesbrough showed that the treatment of pimps by the police seemed to be very lax and even bordered on friendly; and that the men in the cars were simply cautioned. Meanwhile, the girls were finger-printed, cautioned and criminalised by being known as a "common prostitute".

Young girls and boys

should be protected and any one who attempts to have sex with them, or who controls them, should be handed by the police and the authorities. Arresting, charging and publicly naming these men would be a first step. Ian S Mawson, Co-ordinator, St Hilda's Education Project, Sussex Street, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS2 1BQ.

YOUR honest and helpful editorial (Chasing the wrong target, August 21) refers to the duty placed on the police and social services under the 1989 Children Act to protect those under 18 from "significant harm". When it comes to prostitution that just doesn't happen.

There are boys and girls in every major town and city in Great Britain who today will put themselves at risk by selling their bodies on the streets. Most of them are known to the police and social services. Many are in local authority residential care.

Children's homes are meant to be safe places, but for many children it was going into such an environment that first led them into prostitution. The proposals in your editorial are admirable but for any positive action to happen there needs to be far more honesty from the police and social services about the scale of the problem and their present failure to deal with it. (Rev) Pat Brown, Stawood Methodist Church, 6 Lowcraft, Woodthorpe, Nottingham NG5 4JR.

CONGRATULATIONS to Maggie O'Kane and Barnados for demonstrating that Bradford has a prostitution problem which is actually a childcare problem. However, it is worth setting the more horrific aspects of sexual abuse against the background of a population growth unique to Britain's conurbations. While other metropolitan districts have a declining population, Bradford is expecting an increase of 6,000 under-15s over the period 1991-2001.

In the short term, there seems little prospect of any new government responding to this unique population growth. Meanwhile, "routine" child-protection services in the city are severely overstretched with demands for crisis intervention leaving few opportunities for preventative work. We need government agencies to think about population and not just about prostitution when Bradford impinges on their consciousness. (Rev) Geoff Reid, Touchstone Centre, 32 Merton Road, Bradford BD7 1RE.

I AM staggered at your editorial in advertising the availability of under-age women for sex with provocative pictures of them on your front page. How can you seriously imagine that your photograph is not an enticement? Malcolm Williams, Westbourne Road, West Kirby, The Wirral L48.

In Whitehall's secret world

I WAS surprised to see Tony Benn spring to the defence of Harold Wilson (Letters, August 20), particularly when he writes in his diaries that his opinion of Wilson was "very low indeed". We commissioned the Secret History film not to "repeat old smears" but to find out what was going on in the months before Wilson's surprise resignation.

The programme demonstrated that there was a group of disaffected MI5 officers out to discredit Wilson. Lord Hunt confirmed the nature of the problem. Wilson's health also clearly contributed to the timing of his decision to go and it's hard toathom why Benn cannot accept that. If he knew so well that Wilson intended to resign, why does he say in his diaries that "no body [at cabinet] knew it was coming"? Alan Hayling, Dep Commissioning Editor, Documentaries, Channel 4, 124 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2TX.

HAVING worked with many outstanding Royal Navy colleagues over the years, I felt that Richard Thomas (Fighting off the Navy blues, August 17) missed the point. His two different images of naval officers — one in command at sea, the other in the MoD — were not mutually exclusive. The captain of a warship or submarine carries a level of personal and immediate responsibility for the lives of his people beyond the experience of most of your readers. That some of the finest commanders can also make a successful transition to the consensus-seeking, committee-led, shared responsibility of Whitehall demonstrates their flexibility, good humour and intellect. As the Royal Navy shrinks, British industry should be snapping up these paragons. (Air Marshal) Sir Timothy Garden, National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2BE.

ALTHOUGH David McKie claims to be a friend of the footnote (Step forward, all friends of the footnote, August 21), I notice that he is using the modernisers' method of associating footnotes with text on the same page. Genuine footnotes are always at the end of the text, where finding them is a veritable voyage of discovery. Edward O Greening, 25 Garden Street, London E1.

What to do with the Prince of Wales (and the Prince of Darkness)

YOUR article on the royal family (Change would have little effect on who is in line, August 20) misses the point. Ending the law of male succession would put Prince Anne fourth in line to the throne, not fifth. More importantly, should Prince Charles renounce his right to the throne not in favour of his son but in the manner of his grand-uncle, Edward VIII — renouncing the throne for himself and for his descendants — then Princess Anne would become queen.

Thus, what appears to be a simple act of modernisation could in fact be a ploy, of Macmillan proportions, to excise the "troublesome" consequence of the Spencer and Ferguson marriages from the royal family once and for all. P McKie, 9 Station Approach, Sudbury, Midfix HA0 2LA.

IT IS possible to resolve the monarch/president controversy relatively easily by creating a presidency which has Prince Charles as the first occupant for a limited period (without election). This could be done via the required clauses in a Bill of Rights.



After a term of (say) seven years, the posts of monarch and president could separate, with the latter becoming an elected head of state. The monarch (and family) could be allowed to retire into well-earned privacy and obscurity. They could finance themselves from their existing investments and perhaps even undertake national ceremonial duties for fees according to a published scale.

Prince Charles could be allowed to contest the presidential election as could any other nominated citizen. He should be required to relinquish the monarchy to a sibling or offspring of either sex in order to ensure the separation of duties and the subsequent conversion of the royal family into a socially (but not constitutionally) first family. H Lawless, 121 Laurel Road, Huddersfield HD3 3TZ.

AS an impoverished taxpayer who has no choice but to support the lavish lifestyle of the House of Windsor, I am wondering if I might be entitled to Legal Aid to take out an injunction to stop the royal family from continually reminding me how privileged they are. J M Hanna, 9 Alexandra Road, Turnpike Lane, London N8 0PJ.

DESPITE recent wholly unjustified criticism of his Royal role for the Prince of Darkness, August 21), the Labour Party needs Peter Mandelson too much to spare him for the royal family. World Bernard Ingham not do? Geoffrey Robinson MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

DESPITE recent wholly unjustified criticism of his Royal role for the Prince of Darkness, August 21), the Labour Party needs Peter Mandelson too much to spare him for the royal family. World Bernard Ingham not do? Geoffrey Robinson MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

DESPITE recent wholly unjustified criticism of his Royal role for the Prince of Darkness, August 21), the Labour Party needs Peter Mandelson too much to spare him for the royal family. World Bernard Ingham not do? Geoffrey Robinson MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

A Country Diary

EGGLESTON, TESDALE: Revisiting a favourite haunt always provokes mixed feelings of expectation and trepidation, but as we squeezed through the stone stile in the bridge parapet that spans Eggleston Burn all looked much as I remembered it. The steep track descended through pine, birch and alder. Far below, peaty water running off the moorland slid over polished sandstone boulders.

Above us, grassy banks covered with betony, harebells and devil's bit scabious stretched to the skyline. We stopped to watch a family of spotted flycatchers snatching insects from the air, then pushed on to our first objective: an ancient alder with a full-sized rowan growing from its crown. A blackbird dropping with a rowan stone near had fallen into a crevice in the alder. From there the rowan roots have grown down through the rotten branch and bole to reach the soil, giving the epiphytic alder enough stability and nutrients to outgrow its host. In

autumn, as the rowan berries turn scarlet, it makes a curious sight. When we reached the burn we sat and watched aethna dragonflies catching insects under the trees, with one dragonfly performing an aerial manoeuvre that I've never seen before, a perfect head-over-heels somersault, with barely a missed wingbeat.

We finally reached our main objective — a mossy mire on the fellside, studded with ivory-white blooms of grass of parnassus, each with a ring of glistening yellow-green stamens that mimic beards, but offer insects no reward. Then a commotion of swallows drew our attention to the horizon. They were mobbing a buzzard, that drifted over us in wide circles, without a trace of concern for its hysteria, with its pick-a-back tree and deceptive flowers, is still a magical place, where some-saunting dragonflies and a wandering buzzard come as no great surprise. PHIL GATES

صوتنا من الامم

Diary
Matthew Norman

THE world of counselling is mourning one of its brightest stars. A formal announcement in the Journal of the British Association for Counselling reveals that Member Number 33-438, from the Oldham branch, has been expelled. The announcement, signed by general manager Judith Baron, claims that under Article 5 of the BAC's Articles, Bernard Manning "brought counselling into disrepute, misrepresented his membership status, gave good reason to believe there had been a serious breach..." and so on. Mr Manning, who joined the BAC back in February, was unaware of his expulsion until he rang. "Oh dear, they've not kicked me out have they?" said the former specialist in racial awareness and sexual matters. "They never told me they were doing that. I ought to take them to court, because they should have given me a chance to defend myself. I'm not sure what to do now. I'm so upset I can't see a counsellor myself."

Next week's *Esquire* magazine is an intriguing piece called *Diana's Revenge*. "Princess Diana, in a playful mood, the caption beneath a row of pictures, 'gets her own back on top royal photographer Martin Stenning.' What splendid timing." The Princess enjoys a good chase, says the author, banned by injunction from going within 300 yards of her. "It's just a little game she enjoys playing. There are no hard feelings..."

MEANWHILE, how cheering to note the change of editor at Monty Montgomery's *Daily Mirror*. The paper was beside itself yesterday at barrister Julia Samuel's observation, in the Harvey Nichols video snooping case, that women who show a bit of cleavage are asking to be photographed. "Her remarks — condemning every woman who ever goes shopping to becoming victim of a sick voyeur — sparked outrage last night," harrumphed the *Mirror* in a story memorably headlined *You Can Spy On Diana's Breasts*. This is an encouraging development. It was, of course, the same *Daily Mirror* which bought pictures of Diana working out at a gym, taken by a hidden camera. Hats off, Monty!

At the Mail on Sunday, the power struggle between co-editors Jonathan Holborow and Oswald, his white cotton handkerchief, goes on. Mr Holborow recently dispatched two hacks to find out the extra-marital lover of a New Labour figure. "When the pair reported a fortnight later that it was a member of his own staff, the former shopper was paralysed with indecision. 'He had no idea what to do,'" says an *MO* source. "So Oswald took over and spiced the whole thing. Holborow had a decent enough snapper, but now the hankie's getting on top again."

FROM the Erse-speaking island of Donegal, with a population of 140, comes a flicker of hope for the Northern Ireland peace process. A recent visitor to Tory was one Harry Erne, a Viscount and (as Lord Lieutenant), the Queen's representative in County Fermanagh. Lord Erne, who went with a decent enough friend during a folk-music festival, was seen in the island's hotel listening to singing... and there, just behind him, was Mr Gerry Adams. Whether or not they had arranged to meet is unclear. Lord Erne was out yesterday, but his wife denied collusion. "Oh, well, they didn't meet, actually," said Lady Erne. "It's quite funny, isn't it? Everybody had heard of the friend Adams was there, but funnily enough they didn't run into each other. It's a beautiful place, though. Bye."

MANCHESTER'S gay village becomes more popular all the time, with this weekend's day and lesbian Mardi Gras expecting up to 25,000 people. With the action focused around Canal Street, organisers are hopeful that the people who have stolen the letter "G" from the street sign will return it before the fun begins.



Pig of a problem in the operating theatre

Commentary George Monbiot

TONIGHT Channel 4 tells the disturbing story of a 13-year-old girl who, because she has Down's syndrome, has been denied the heart-and-lung transplant which is her only hope of survival. Hospitals argue that a severe shortage of suitable organs means they must make hard choices about who gets transplants. They give priority to "normal" people, rather than to people whose lives after the transplant would still not be considered "whole".

Their valuation of human life seems crushing unfair, but there's no question about the shortage of organs. Almost 5,000 people in Britain are waiting for new kidneys, and hundreds have almost lost hope of receiving new hearts, lungs or livers. People with Down's syndrome — though many are afflicted with failing hearts — are not even included on the waiting lists. Every year the dearth of suitable organs condemns scores of people to a slow and

horrible death. It is hardly surprising that there is a rush to get round the problem. But the ethics of the proposed solutions may be just as unwholesome as the ethics of leaving Joanna to die.

In the United States, which has a problem very much like ours, there is now an increasingly vociferous lobby in favour of reversing the 1984 National Organ Transplant Act, and enabling the sale of human organs. The Act, the lobbyists argue, denies the poor an opportunity to use their assets to improve their prospects. In India, for example, desperate people will ward off starvation by selling bodily parts. Corneas go for £2,500 (leaving the vendor blind in one eye), kidneys for £500 and patches of skin for £30. The trade is largely voluntary, if the only means of warding off destitution is truly voluntary. But wherever there is a market there is, of course, the possibility of coercion — ruthless people deceiving or bullying the poor and wading into surrendering their resources. The press in many Third World countries abounds with tales of such practice — of drugged people waking up to find their eyes have gone, of children being kidnapped and killed for their organs, of anaesthetised patients losing their kidneys. Some are exaggerated, some are wholly fictitious, yet

some, like the case of the mental hospital in Argentina which sold organs from at least 400 patients, are well-documented. When human organs bear a price, life itself becomes a tradeable commodity. It is, quite rightly, illegal to buy organs in Britain, but not, according to the Department of Health, to travel abroad to get them. But the chief hopes of people like Joanna and her parents lie not with humans but with pigs. Some researchers believe that, within a few years, transplants of whole organs from animals to humans will be routine. "Xenotransplantation", its exponents say, averts the moral dangers of a trade in human organs, while ensuring a supply of bodily parts to hospitals as regular as the supply of meat to supermarkets.

The xenotransplantation debate has so far concentrated almost exclusively on the risks of generating new human diseases. These are, researchers acknowledge, unquantifiable. Pathogens which may have lain harmless and undetected in a pig could, in the new environment of a human body, burst into malign fecundity. Earlier this year, the Nuffield Council on Bioethics recommended that anyone receiving a xenotransplant should be closely monitored for unusual diseases for the rest of

his life. For the same reason, apes and monkeys should not be used as organ sources. These seem to be sensible precautions, and may well be included in the Kennedy Commission's report on the ethics of xenotransplantation, which is due to be published by the Department of Health within the next few months. But in the United States, researchers are working to a different set of standards, following an Institute of Medicine report proposing that transplants from primates are acceptable. As new human diseases are international problems, it is not surprising that without an international protocol looks hazardous. But even if we overcome the risks of disease, there is a real danger that the principal ethical questions are being fudged. Protagonists of xenotransplantation tell us that

One of the most extraordinary adventures humankind has ever undertaken is about to begin

there are no new ethical issues at stake. Humans, they say, have practised biotechnology for millennia. This is simply another step along that road, qualitatively no different from breeding dachshunds or preparing vaccinations. But ordinary pigs are no good for transplantation. Human DNA must be added to their genome in order to prevent patients from rejecting their organs. Both the "transgenic" donor pigs and the experimental processes

involved have been patented. To get a patent, your process must be both novel and inventive — in other words, a clear conceptual step beyond what has gone before. The researchers can't have it both ways. Either xenotransplantation is merely the continuation of a tradition, and therefore ineligible for patents, or it is novel and patentable, and it is a whole new set of ethical questions.

For example, some xenotransplantation operations — such as bone-marrow grafts — will work only if the animal cells migrate throughout the human body, so that the patient becomes a cellular mixture of human and animal. What does this mingling do to our identity? What does the receipt of the heart and lungs of a pig do to a patient's sense of self? Are, in turn, the transgenic pigs in any sense human? Do they have a different set of rights? But technology is racing ahead of ethics. The Papworth Hospital in Cambridge is the first place in the world to make a realistic attempt at the transplantation of a whole animal organ into a human body. The director of transplant services says he "will probably wait" until the Kennedy Commission report, but hopes to begin human trials within a year or two. One of the most extraordinary adventures humankind has ever undertaken — the breaking down of barriers between ourselves and other species — is about to begin, attended, remarkably, by the virtual absence of public debate on any but technical matters. To Joanna and her parents, advocating a moratorium on xenotransplantation trials until we've thought much harder about what we're doing must seem like yet another cruel blow. But this issue is simply too big to be left to the whims of a few individuals. Technology is no substitute for ethics.

Beware the battle-cries of 'experts'



Meg Henderson

LOUCESTER Road was the start of it, then Dunblane. Before Fred and Rosemary West were discovered, and before Thomas Hamilton committed murder in the school gym, their sexual leanings had been apparent to many. The perversions of Sophie Hook's killer were also well known for years. Now the news that children's bodies are being dug up in the basement of a Belgian house has sent fresh ripples of fear through every family. It's a natural reaction; anxiety is programmed into parents in order that children will be protected. But...

The latest bandwagon is slipping into gear. The creak of the wheels and the appearance, mainly through self-appointment, of "experts", is now well under way; paedophilia is the next stop along the line. We have seen it before and it is almost impossible to stop, because in this country we do love our "experts". By creating or pandering to the latest shock-horror topic, any idiot can climb the career ladder in no time. We are suckers for anyone who gives our darkest nightmares credibility, even if they have none themselves. Some 10 or so years ago, when the sexual-abuse bandwagon got into gear, I was fostering abused children — they did actually exist before the Big Discovery. I can clearly remember being among those trying to apply the brakes, and for advising caution we were almost branded as heretics. No one listened, except those who marked us down in their little notebooks as potential, if not hardened, abusers. Myth became accepted as fact. "Children don't lie about such things" became the battle-cry of the "experts", who suddenly appeared from nowhere. Bunkum, we said, children lie about everything; it is patent nonsense to suggest that one section of the population does not lie about one subject. The danger was that the experiences and suffering of those who had been abused would be devalued by the constant cries of wolf, that dogma would lead social workers to falsely assume that sexual abuse was at the root of every problem. There was very little quality therapy for sexually-abused children, and there was no evidence that the bandwagon would address that problem. It didn't; but then that wasn't the intention. The whole subject was hijacked by those

with a particular axe to grind. One faction simply wanted men locked up — forget helping the children, just lock the bastards up — throw away the key. They didn't bother with diversions, like the number of women who abuse. Their one and only conviction was that all men had the physical equipment, ergo, all men were potential child abusers, as though ability equalled inclination. Males, criticised for their inability to show affection, who had been encouraged to become involved with their children, instead became wary of touching them. A good thing too, said the "experts": all men should rethink their attitudes to physical contact. Bunkum again; children need spontaneous physical contact with both parents, with aunts and uncles, without implanting in their minds that there is something wrong about it. Unless, that is, we want future generations unable to form relationships with the opposite sex.

The other group of hijackers were those self-appointed "experts". Careers were founded on sexual abuse, gurus scrambled to the mountain summit to dictate words of dubious wisdom to the masses; they wrote books, did talk-shows, and their wisdom was rarely questioned. But now the bandwagon has moved on; no one wants to hear about sexual abuse any longer, something even worse is needed to capture the jaded attention of the masses. Right on cue after Dunblane came Belgium. The next stop is paedophilia.

SPECULATION about international paedophile rings without hard evidence has about it the same whiff of hysteria as satanic abuse. "Experts" are now cropping up everywhere to warn that paedophiles are not monsters, they are ordinary people. Often they seek to work with children, and children trust them. All true, but let's stop for a minute and capture the jaded attention of the masses. Right on cue after Dunblane came Belgium. The next stop is paedophilia. There have always been paedophiles. Such people are not the result of some new virus. Some, like the Wests, Howard Hughes, who murdered Sophie Hook, and Marc Dutroux in Belgium, had previous convictions for crimes against children. What we should perhaps be addressing is how their earlier crimes were dealt with by the authorities. We do need to protect our children, but part of that is not terrifying them into fearing every adult who smiles at them. And not believing that every "expert" is



Conrad Russell argues that the way to free patronage from 'the slimy trail of finance' is to reform party funding — and free the House of Lords of control by the executive

Who pays the piper

WHENEVER there has been government, there has been patronage, and wherever there has been patronage, there has been resentment. The ruler who raises "the slimy trail of finance" like King Henry I or King Richard II, surrounded by corrupt cronies like the proverbial tyrant, are types as old as government. When King Edward IV married Elizabeth Woodville, her relations, who were as numerous as Rabbi's, were made peers. Lord Rivers, head of the family, became so powerful that the court fool, on a rainy day, turned up dripping with wet and covered with water weed, complaining that "the rivers be so high there is no getting through them".

Increasingly, this process of patronage has been influenced by what RE Tawney called "the slimy trail of finance". King James I sold peerages and was suspected of giving his creditors peerages in lieu of payment. When Lloyd George was in charge, Maundy Gregory, risked giving a new meaning to the words Maundy Money. There is nothing new, and no party issue, about the complaint, yet when it has become loud, rulers who have

not heeded it have tended to run into trouble. There is nothing new about peerages going to those who have contributed to the funding of political parties. This should be met by reform of party funding and wider terms of reference for the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee. It is also clear that such concerns have always been most intense at times when large amounts of Crown property are being sold off. Yet even if this is an old story, the concern about the Demon Blair posters is some-

thing out of the ordinary, as the intervention of the Bishop of Oxford illustrates. Conservative Central Office's attempt to dismiss him as a "sneering so-called intellectual from Islington" was an unpardonable assault on one of the most courteous non-party figures in the House of Lords. The responsibility for this, as for the poster, rests on the customer not on the craftsman. It is Dr Mawhinney, not Lord Saatchi, whom we should be attacking. The New Labour,

New Danger poster was merely offensive. The Demon Blair poster, as the actor photographed for it has realised, is something different. The attempt to demonise one's political opponents (and there can be no reasonable doubt that that is what it was) is an attempt to dehumanise them, and therefore to deprive them of the protection of normal society restraints. It is the exact opposite of what the House of Lords is all about. When Lord Saatchi sits in the House of Lords, as I am sure

he will, his effectiveness as a lethal advertiser will be very much diminished. Whether the Conservatives' loss or their gain is not for me to say. The word lethal is not a figure of speech. It has been pointed out that previous cases of demonising opponents have preceded attempts to kill them, as the Jews know very well. Dr Mawhinney, faced with this point, would probably say I had no sense of humour, and it was all a joke. Is that what

Henry II should have said if taken to task immediately after he had spoken them, for the words "Will no one rid this turbulent priest?" At the very least, demonising opponents must make government by consent, if they should be electorally successful, even more difficult than it is already. It is an even more curious exercise when applied to a Labour leader whose policies differ so much less from those of this Government than those of any previous Labour leader. This is, as I

coming from a party which is in favour of a purely nominated House of Lords. The hereditary peerage is not a good system and does not confer legitimacy, but at least their benefactors have the advantage of being dead. Obligations to Queen Victoria or to Henry VIII do not dictate current political behaviour. A corrupt deal 300 years old creates no present-day political obligations. Pure heredity and pure nomination are both bad systems, but at least each may occasionally temper the evils of the other. The prime function of the House of Lords is to check the executive, whose control of the House of Commons is now nearly complete. It is hard to see how a House entirely nominated by the executive would be competent to do this job. "The man whom the King delighted to honour" has never been the man who tells him he is suffering from political halitosis. That task must be done by people immune from living patronage. Tony Blair today is a wronged man. It is because he is a wronged man that he must go away and think again about how he should reform the Lords.

Conrad Russell is the 5th Earl Russell (or 1861). He is a Liberal Democrat working peer

MALE IMPOTENCE

THE SOLUTION. The solution is now much easier than you think. Discover why so many men have already resumed normal loving relationships thanks to discreet new treatments that are simple, safe and effective. No longer should any man suffer alone — the answer to impotence, premature ejaculation and any questions you may have are to be found in our confidential free booklet, just published. To obtain your copy within 48 hours, please FREEPHONE one of our experienced male advisors on:

0800 357581
or return the FREEPOST coupon below.

The Central Clinic
Please send me my free book: 'Male Impotence - All your questions answered' in complete confidence.
Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel No _____
THE CENTRAL CLINIC, FREEPOST 40 ALM1635, LONDON W1E 7LJ

صباحنا من الامل

Thursday August 22 1996

The battle over your gas bill, page 12

Tomorrow: How gross is the domestic product?

11

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

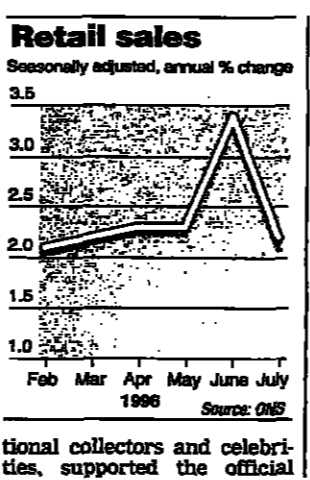
Finance Guardian

High street takes a knock

Sarah Ryle
THE GOVERNMENT was last night shrugging off a surprise July fall in high street spending, arguing that an international antiques fair was one of several exceptional factors masking a strong upward trend in consumer activity. Although retail sales fell by 0.8 per cent in July against June, the Government pointed to the less volatile three-monthly and annual comparisons which showed retail spending was rising. The slowdown, however, ended fears of a return to a 1980s-style consumer boom. It

renewed speculation that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, would make a further 25 basis point cut in interest rates in the autumn in the economy as the general election nears. This would help ensure voters felt the benefits of the economic upturn, and speculation that the temptation to gain political capital will prove too strong for Mr Clarke was not diminished by official arguments that the fall in July was largely due to special factors. "Along with Tuesday's slowdown in broad money supply growth, (the figures) provide useful ammunition for Mr Clarke in the base rate debate," said HSBC bank ana-

lyst Jonathan Loytes. The Government said up to half of last month's fall in volume was due to real-life Lovejoys doing fewer antiques deals after enjoying a roaring trade in June. Officials insisted that antiques dealers did so well out of the showpiece Grosvenor House Olympia summer antiques fair in June - bringing up to £20 million as a result - that they distorted the national retail index. Seasonally adjusted figures to counter the fall because they were more successful than in previous years, the Office for National Statistics claimed. Organisers of the glittery Grosvenor House event, which attracted top interna-



view. Sue Bond said there were signs of a return to 1980s-style confidence in the trade, with visitor numbers up 3.2 per cent on last year and more spending on big-ticket items. The ONS said anecdotal evidence from dealers supported this optimism. Officials and City analysts were expecting July to be slightly weaker than June, but they pointed to the less volatile three-monthly index, which rose by 1.1 per cent in the three months to July and was 2.7 per cent higher than at the same time last year. Philip Oppenheim, cashier secretary to the Treasurer, said: "Retail sales eased in July following an exceptional 1.5 per cent jump in

June. Taken together with recent figures they show high street sales are on a healthy upward trend." The Labour Party seized on the monthly downturn to criticise the Government's claims that the "feel good factor" has returned to Britain. Alistair Darling, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, said: "These figures show there is no room for complacency on the economy and bear out people's misgivings over the strength of the recovery." An Income Data Services survey of private sector pay showed settlements this summer were held down below 3.9 per cent, suggesting benign wage inflation pressure.

Notebook

Ken may take the rise out of Eddie

Edited by Larry Elliott
ON HIS return from holiday two years ago, Kenneth Clarke ambushed the City with a rise in interest rates, justifying the move as a pre-emptive strike against inflation. That was then: this is now. Notwithstanding yesterday's news of a sharp fall in July high street sales, consumer demand is strong and likely to get stronger. Yet only two options are being seriously canvassed in the markets for the next performance of the Ken and Eddie double act on September 4: leaving rates at 5.75 per cent or cutting them. For the moment, Mr George is seen as Ernie Wise to the Chancellor's Eric Morecambe, the long-suffering straight man with none of the good lines. Mr Clarke, by contrast, is having a whale of a time. With inflation low he has justifiably cut rates four times since last November's Budget.

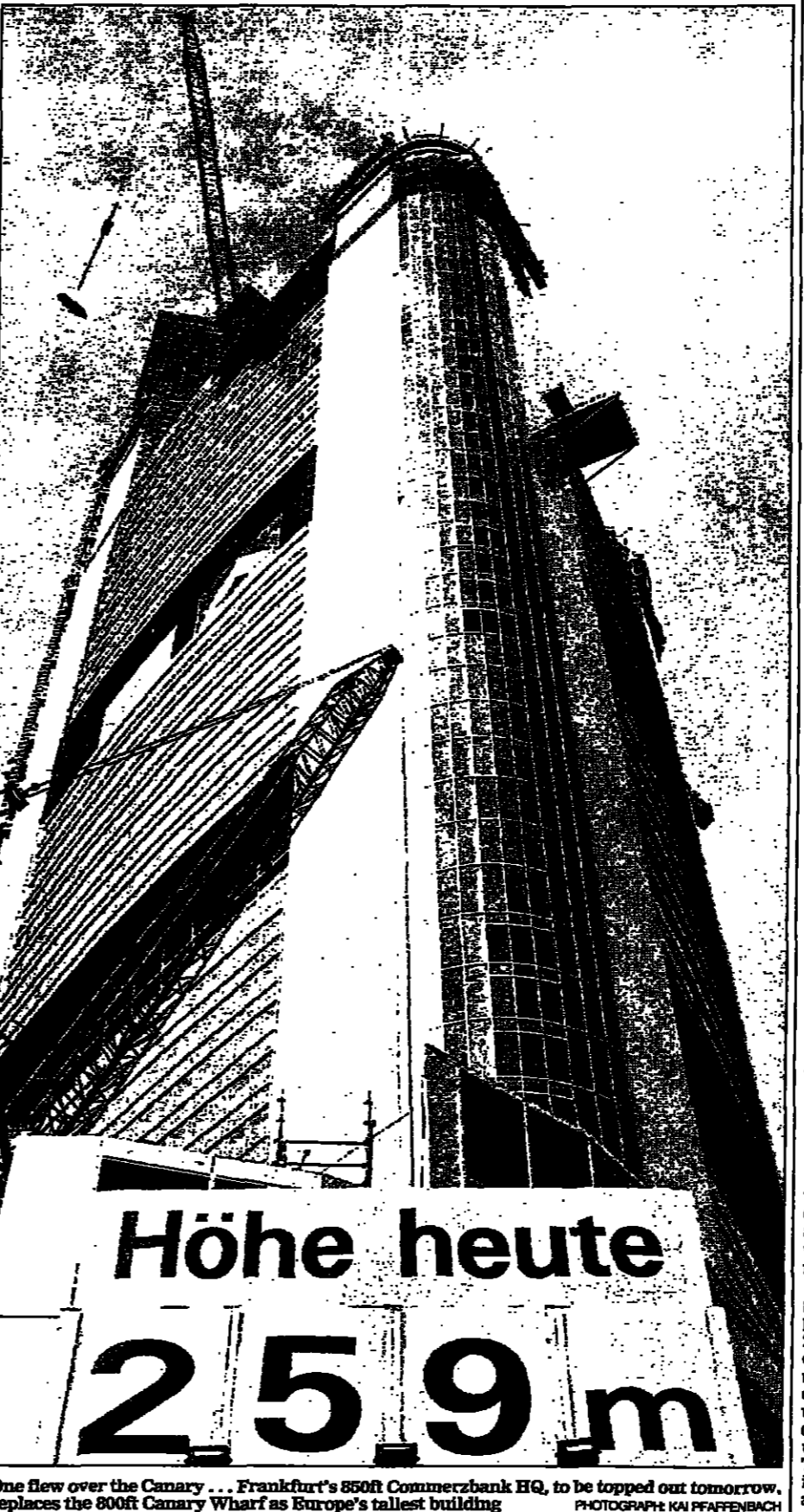
It seems paradoxical, then, to suggest that this might be the time that the Chancellor chooses to heed the advice from Threadneedle Street. But there is such a case. First, you get a far bigger bang for your buck if you move against the market consensus, and it would be better for the Chancellor to move at a time of his own choosing rather than be dragged kicking and screaming into a rate rise closer to the election. (On this basis, the chances of a repo cut by the Bundesbank today were strengthened by yesterday's rise in business confidence.) Second, while a rate rise would chime with Mr Clarke's assertions that there is no mileage for the Government in stoking up a boom, it would have the added beauty of making Budget tax cuts easier to sell to the City. Last, but not least, if the Governor is right, the Chancellor will get the credit for his prescience: if he is wrong, rates can always be cut again.

Milk Marque deal set to cut prices

Roger Cowe
MILK prices may fall following concessions wrung from the milk distribution body, Milk Marque, by the Office of Fair Trading. The OFT announced yesterday that the Milk Marketing Board's successor, which controls distribution from 20,000 farms in England and Wales, had agreed to open up its auction process. This follows an investigation prompted by complaints from the dairy industry when Milk Marque was established in 1994. The Director General of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, said he was still unhappy with some aspects of Milk Marque's operations but the concessions it had made were enough to avoid a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The dairy industry gave a

cautious welcome to the assurances made by Milk Marque, but said it was impossible to predict the impact on milk prices once the new regime comes into effect next year. But City analysts estimated that bulk prices could fall by one pence per litre and mark up the shares of leading dairy companies Unigate and Northern Foods. Unigate's chief executive, Ross Buckland, said the OFT victory was a step in the right direction. "It is the first real positive sign we have seen that Milk Marque has recognised its monopoly position. It shows that all has not been as it ought to have been. It's still not, but significant progress has been made." The main promises made by Milk Marque concern the tendering process by which dairy companies bid for milk. From next April's quarterly bidding round, the prices at

which bids are invited will be able to fall if there is not enough demand for the available milk from the farms. The OFT complained that previously the system only allowed for prices to rise. Milk Marque will also cap the price at which it invites initial bids, based on the prices paid in the previous 12 months by the leading buyers. And it has agreed to continue a "spot" market for milk not sold on the monthly and three-monthly contracts. Dairy companies have complained that Milk Marque has an unfair position in the auction process because it controls almost two-thirds of the milk supply, and because of the European Union quota system which limits the total volume of milk produced. They remain unhappy with Milk Marque's refusal to offer prices excluding transport, a practice which Mr Bridgeman recently described as anti-competitive.



One flew over the Canary... Frankfurt's 850ft Commerzbank HQ, to be topped out tomorrow, replaces the 800ft Canary Wharf as Europe's tallest building. PHOTOGRAPH: KAI PFAFFENBACH

Four expelled from City as SFA cracks the whip

Dan Atkinson
THE former financial controller of Barclays in Glasgow has been expelled from the City for stealing £176,525, which he frittered away on exotic holidays, home furnishings and an expensive lifestyle. Robert Sim Jenkins, currently serving a two-year jail term for his embezzlement, has been struck off the register of the Securities and Futures Authority, the body that polices exchange-based activity. Jenkins was allegedly disgruntled after expected pay rises and bonuses were not paid to him. He was convicted and sent to prison in April this year. In unconnected cases, the SFA announced the striking off of three other former members and the censuring

of a fourth. The expulsion blitz reflects a continuing crackdown by the SFA's enforcement arm on unauthorised and illegal activity. Two of those expelled were "rogue traders" of the Nick Leeson type, albeit on a smaller scale and with less catastrophic consequences than with the man who brought down Barings bank. During 1995 and early 1996, Kikuo Watanabe, formerly of New Japan Securities' London branch hid thousands of pounds' worth of losses caused by unauthorised speculative plays on the foreign-exchange market by various deceitful accounting entries. In an echo of the Leeson affair, Mr Watanabe exercised both dealing and settlement functions, allowing him to check his own paperwork. This is a breach of SFA rules, and New Japan has been fined £10,000 with £4,700 costs. It has promised to

remedy the position. Mr Watanabe has returned to Japan. Karim Tabet, formerly employed by Bear Stearns' international, exceeded his dealing limits and hid losses and unauthorised trades by entering false deals on the computer system. Simon Burch was sacked by Manchester brokers Henry Cooke Lumsden in February last year, when he applied in December 1995 for a job with another firm, he used his home computer to "scan out" of his letter from HCL any reference to the reasons for his dismissal. This attempt to delude his new employer has led to his expulsion from the SFA. John Ludlum, a former European equities trader with Salomon, deliberately mismarked Belgian shares between October and early February 1995 in order to hide losses. He has been reprimanded and fined £5,000 with £4,000 costs.

Höhe heute
259m

Corruption rising in the boardroom

Directors proved unfit rise by 83pc, reports Sarah Whitebloom
CORPORATE misconduct is booming in Britain's boardrooms, according to Department of Trade and Industry figures published yesterday. They revealed an 83 per cent rise in the number of directors disqualified for unfit conduct in the second quarter of 1996 compared with the same period last year. Court action by the DTI insolvency service saw 203 individuals barred from holding directorships for up to 15 years in the three months from April to June. This compares with 111 directors struck off in the same period in 1995. A DTI spokesman said: "We have noticed there has been an increase in dodgy directing. But these figures go to show the DTI is on top of it and is taking the situation seriously."

John Taylor, the corporate affairs minister, said: "The Insolvency Service is on a mission to rid the business world of unfit directors. The latest figures show that corporate misconduct is being crushed." The DTI spokesman said other directors might be getting away with misconduct but the department could only act on the information it receives. He said the sharp increase in disqualifications had arisen because the insolvency service has been given additional funds to allow all identified cases of rogue directors to be pursued. In the past, the DTI has only been able to go after the "big fish". But the extra resources have made it possible for every case of misconduct to be taken to court. However, the DTI's statistics also show there has been a decrease in the number of disqualification returns submitted by insolvency practitioners. These reports identify any company misconduct and form the basis of court action against directors.

DTI casebook

- 1 May: Matthews & Yates, Colchester ventilation firm, two directors disqualified for total of 12 years. Alleged: failing to account for cash withdrawals.
- 7 May: Provincial & City Properties, Manchester, two directors struck off for total of nine years. Alleged: misappropriating company assets, excessive benefits and loans to directors.
- 9 May: Anthony Coppigh of A Copping Technical Systems (Communications), Kent larger alarm firm, disqualified for nine years. Alleged: trading without reasonable prospect of success.
- 10 June: Vogue Leisure (St Annas), public house/restaurant business. Two directors disqualified for total of 21 years. Alleged: controlling company while an undischarged bankrupt and misuse of bank account.
- 2 July: Two directors of County Security, a Birmingham area provider of security guards, barred for total of 18 years. Alleged: allowing company to trade without reasonable prospect of paying creditors.

Miss the bus and then get caught by a whiff of lemon up your nose

Dan Atkinson sniffs out a fresh piece of promotion — the olfactory offensive
PICK ANY stage in the collapse of civilisation and you'll find it marked by another advance of the advertising and marketing industry. The riotous and volatile early 1980s? Adverts on London's beloved black cabs and the transformation of TIM, the speaking clock, into "the time sponsored by Acornist". The boom and bust of the last decade? See cricket whites defiled by brewery adverts. As for the moral turpitude and the general festering of the present, it has been a toss-up between Cadbury's use of the St Paul's Cathedral dome on November 8 last year as a huge backdrop for a chocolate-bar promotion or on Pepsi Cola's payment of \$2 million to Russian spacemen in return for their floating a vast Pepsi tin outside the Mir spacecraft. But now, presaging what

may be a decisive strike by the barbarian hordes, marketers have devised a new promotion that is not so much in-your-face as up-your-nose. Advertisements in bus shelters for Del Monte soft drinks are to squirt hapless public-transport users with lemon vapour. Or, as Del Monte's advertising agency put it, the illuminated advert "will release a citrus fragrance". Young & Rubicam, the perpetrators, boast that the "aroma posters" will be the first of their kind in Britain. There's no escape, either: "an infra-red device will sense that someone is at the bus stop" and activate the spray. This anti-personnel technology, reminiscent of the Berlin Wall, has already been used to create talking supermarket shelves. Last autumn, customers at certain Somerfield shops were

started to be urged by speaking displays to "indulge your loved one with a can of new Spillers Purfect but, remember, it is just for cats". Now, after Spillers's aural assault, Del Monte is planning an olfactory offensive. The first aroma poster, advertising Del Monte's Citrus Twist, will appear at a bus stop in Oxford Street, although how long it will survive the Saturday-night attentions of Soho's pub and curry-house set is anyone's guess. More menacingly for Del Monte, an age in which even solicitors are allowed to advertise is an age in which some bus passenger, somewhere, will hire a lawyer and claim enormous damages for alleged respiratory distress or "wilful transmutation" caused by "secondary consumption" of Citrus Twist. Or perhaps for that we will have to await the fuming Esso poster, the smouldering Rothmans advert and the belching bitter promotion.

Labour in a spot

CONSUMERS and investors are not the only people with a vested interest in the outcome of the clash between British Gas and watchdog Clare Spottiswoode. Politicians have as much to win or lose. The Conservatives stand to gain from the prospect of a 17 per cent cut in gas prices by 2002. Such a cut would not only contribute to the nascent resurgence in economic confidence but it would also shore up the distinctly tatty record displayed by the privatised utilities towards consumers. The alternative, a drawn-out inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission

News in brief

- French firm to run trains**
Commuters were promised a record £400 million investment in new rolling stock yesterday when a French company, CGEA, won a 15-year franchise to operate the South East Train Company between London, the Kent coast and parts of Sussex. CGEA has been given a long franchise so it can replace the line's entire "slam door" fleet. Some of the rolling stock is nearly 40 years old, but passengers will have to wait three years for the first new train.
- Building 'slow'**
Marley, the builders merchants and materials group, said the UK market remained "disappointingly slow" as it unveiled half-year operating profits of £26.9 million.
- Tobacco action**
The Kansas attorney general TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1,850	France 7,575	Italy 2,300	Singapore 213
Austria 15,59	Germany 2,2325	Malta 0,5370	South Africa 8,6
Belgium 45,91	Greece 359,50	Netherlands 2,5075	Spain 168,50
Canada 2,0700	Hong Kong 11,06	New Zealand 2,1775	Sweden 10,05
Cyprus 0,88	India 55,08	Norway 9,89	Switzerland 17,05
Denmark 8,6575	Ireland 0,9390	Turkey 226,75	Turkey 187,60
Finland 8,8375	Israel 4,88	Saudi Arabia 5,77	USA 1,5100

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel).

Clare Spottiswoode of Ofgas has refused to be deflected by the industry's frantic propaganda campaign. **Chris Barrie** reports

British Gas loses bills battle with regulator

AN UNPRECEDENTED lobbying campaign by British Gas failed to prevent industry watchdog Clare Spottiswoode from yesterday carrying out her threat to cut almost £30 off the average annual household bill.

The price review by Ofgas has highlighted how battles between regulators and regulated are increasingly being fought in the public domain. Just over a year ago BG was humiliated when more than 1,000 shareholders attended its annual general meeting and rebelled openly against huge pay rises for top directors.

But, faced with the "smash and grab" tactics of Ms Spottiswoode three months ago, BG turned for help to these former adversaries and lobbied shareholders to join the campaign to water down Ofgas's proposals. Some 35,000 shareholders supported BG's case by writing to Ofgas demanding changes to the price controls planned for BG's highly profitable transportation business, TransCo.

It is likely many of them were alarmed by the slump in the BG share price. When Ms Spottiswoode first announced her plans for TransCo, £1.3 billion — 13 per cent of its worth — was wiped off the value of BG shares within hours. BG also briefed institutional investors, some of whom went to see Ofgas officials as a result.

And the company launched a vigorous lobbying campaign of a more conventional kind. Apart from briefing politicians and agencies, BG explained to its suppliers the implications of what it felt were savage price controls. And it made sure that trade unions knew that thousands of jobs would be axed if TransCo were forced to squeeze costs as fast and as far as Ofgas claimed was possible.

BG is not alone in finding

that its regulator is evolving into a more formidable opponent.

Driven by a public mood of impatience with the privatised utilities, watchdogs in the electricity, water and telecommunications industries have all been embroiled recently in highly publicised clashes.

Like the electricity industry watchdog, Professor Stephen Littlechild, Ms Spottiswoode has used outside consultants to buttress her inquiry and conclusions. BG found it was fighting a regulatory battle that involved not only hot words, but detailed accounting practice as well.

A senior BG manager said yesterday that, while the campaign had mobilised support, it was a "moot point" how successful it had been in winning tangible results. Unfortunately the company had not won many concessions from Ms Spottiswoode.

Ms Spottiswoode is not a regulator to fight shy of a public battle and yesterday she remarked pointedly that BG had won little support from customers in its lobbying campaign.

But she acknowledged that she had been surprised by the "huge amount of response" to her original proposals and, as a result, had modified them. She was equally at pains to emphasise that she was being "fair" to shareholders, and talked a lot of "compromise".

Dismissing the "harrage of stories" put up by regulated industries during a price review, Ms Spottiswoode said BG would be better advised to concentrate on convincing her, her office and, ultimately, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission of its case.

On that score, at least, she and BG deputy chairman Philip Rogerson will be at one from now on. The company admits that the time for shareholder lobbying is now over and that talks will determine whether her proposals really are final.



No meeting of minds... Regulator Clare Spottiswoode and British Gas's unhappy deputy chairman, Philip Rogerson

PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID SALLITOE and TOM JENNINS

No stranger to controversy

CLARE Spottiswoode, born in Lancashire in 1953, has gained a reputation for charm, ambition and determination as director general of Ofgas. A former Treasury civil servant, she was educated at Cheltenham Ladies College and Clare College, Cambridge, where she read economics. Unlike her fellow regulators, Ms Spottiswoode has shown little reluctance to speak out. She demanded a salary rise at the height of the controversy about pay and perks for British Gas directors, suggested BG might be in financial difficulties over take-or-pay contracts, and had to deny having an affair with a Whitehall official who recommended her appointment.

Pressure is on for gas deputy

PHILIP Rogerson may prove to be the most important deputy chairman that British Gas has ever had. The former finance director, competitive and methodical, faces the onerous task of defending a company synonymous in the public mind with corporate excess. Mr Rogerson, 51, was educated at William Hulme Grammar School, Manchester, started work at 17 and joined ICI in 1978. Since joining British Gas four years ago, he has been responsible for the TransCo transmission business and is leading the plan to demerge trading business next year. Mr Rogerson is described as ambitious, at times secretive, but unpretentious. All are qualities needed when "managing" the regulator.



Neighbour's low-rent lure heightens recovery tension

PATCHWORK PROGRESS/ Crossing the Tamar marks 'economic cliff' that splits South-west and undermines attempts to attract investment, writes Geoffrey Gibbs

GLOSSY brochures from the Development Board for Rural Wales, sent to more than 1,700 businesses in the west of England attempting to lure them with the offer of low-rent factories, have reawakened fears in the South-west of being left behind in the current economic recovery.

They provoked consternation among local authorities in the region already worried by the success of the Welsh in winning inward investment and brought a swift "hands off" warning from the housing minister, David Curry, the recently appointed minister for the South-west.

In a stinging rebuke to the DBRW the minister made it clear that economic develop-

ment organisations should not be encouraging jobs and industry to move within the UK but joining in a national effort to bring overseas investment to Britain.

His strictures underscored the findings of a recent report by the Confederation of British Industry's Bristol office that showed the South-west lagging behind all regions of the UK other than East Anglia in terms of the number of jobs created or safeguarded by inward investment.

Statistically, the region comprises the five counties of Avon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire together with Devon and Cornwall. Taken as a whole, it is one

of the most prosperous regions in the country and has, according to CBI figures, consistently outperformed the UK's average growth rate over the past 15 years.

The largest English region geographically, it accounts for 8.3 per cent of UK employment and 7.8 per cent of GDP. But it is a region with varied needs and vastly different shades of economic performance.

A report from the Plymouth Business School this summer highlighted a picture of gradual decline in economic prosperity that emerges the further south and west one travels. Whereas Wiltshire has a GDP per head well above the national average, Cornwall

lags almost 40 percentage points behind the region's most easterly county with a GDP only 71.6 per cent of the national figure.

Crossing the Tamar says the Plymouth Business School is almost like falling off an economic cliff.

Many argue that, as a region, the "South-west" is an artificial grouping. Cornish business leaders, for example, feel the county has little in common with the rest of Gloucestershire.

The CBI points out that, unlike other European regions, the South-west economy has not been formed by a dependence on a single industry. While the industrial mix is a source of strength in times of recession it has not helped produce the clear regional identity that is essential if the region is to be marketed effectively.

There are, however, signs of change. Mr Curry's appointment should ensure the region's voice is heard in Whitehall, if not in Brussels. And a West of England Development Agency has been established under the auspices of the Department of Trade and Industry's Invest in Britain Bureau to co-ordinate the inward investment plans of the more affluent easterly counties.

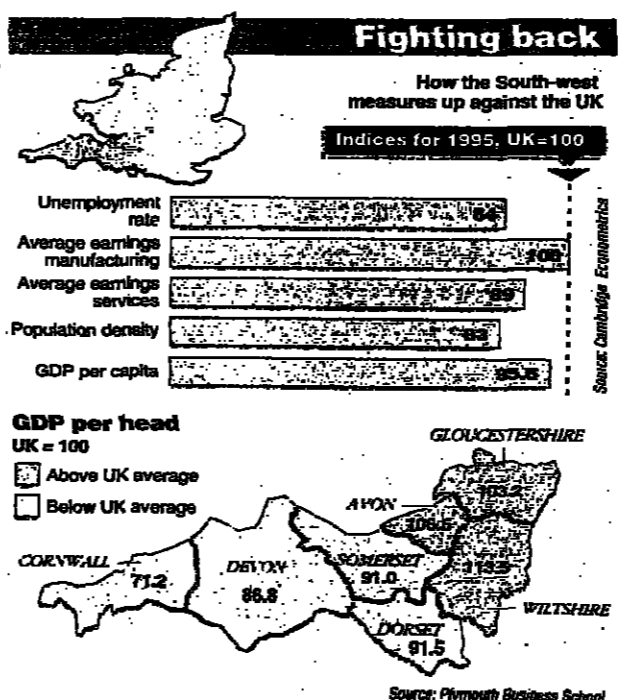
Even there, post-cold war retrenchment in the defence sector and recession-induced shedding of labour by service sector companies has concentrated minds on the need to woo outside investors to the wroo side of the two Severn crossings. To the west — where the decline of the mainstay fish-

ing and tin mining industries has led to more deep seated structural problems — the task of attracting outside investment has been handled for more than a decade by Devon and Cornwall Development International which has successfully targeted companies in the healthcare, medical products and electronics industries.

Ken Martin, the DCDI chief executive, is under no illusions about the special problems facing Devon and Cornwall, large parts of which

qualify for assisted area status. The two counties are already home to a number of overseas-owned companies. Toshiba, Wrigleys and Nortel are all well established in the region and even South Crofty, the last working tin mining business in Canadian control. But Mr Martin says there is a need to overcome the perception of the peripheral nature of this sub-region in order to continue attracting inward investors.

Tomorrow's West Midlands



Underside

Dan Atkinson

ROTTEN times on both sides of the Atlantic for Bear Stearns, the investment bank. Over here, former trader Karim Taher has been hooded out of the City for a spot of rogue trading (exceeding dealing limits, entering ghost trades into the system and other Leesonian) while over there scurrilous suggestions in the gay press that a top Bear has been exploring his sexuality in the most alarming manner has caused more than a little fluttering in the dovecoats. Dull it ain't.

POSTSCRIPT to our August 1 item reporting that the magazine SuperMarketing had devoted an entire issue to down-scale, *au basso profundo*, supermarket group Somerfield, in which the company's chief executive, David Simons, became "guest editor" for the edition. Somerfield has now limped to the stock market and was last seen trading at 150p, against initial hopes of a 180-190p float price, and SuperMarketing, in true independent style, has marked the occasion: "Sommerfield shares enjoy up-beat start". It crills in its latest issue: "Sommerfield thumbed its nose at critics." Don't ever change.

DOING business in Mexico? Then don't miss the state of Oaxaca whose "Zapototec Indian women" provide the "notable exception" to the country's trad division of labour between chaps, who pull the ox-cart, and ladies, who run the household. McGraw-Hill's Passport to Mexico — a pocket-book packed with edgewise info aimed at saving businessmen from losing deals through cultural faux pas — declares that Zapotecettes

"play a dominant rôle in both local politics and the local economy", and are famous for "loving to dance and for being open about their sexual appetites". Filtration, Zapotec style, would seem to involve climbing church roofs and bell-towers during fiesta time and pelting the men and boys below with *inverosimiles*, pineapples and coconuts, "a tradition known as *Tiradas de Frutas*". McGraw-Hill is planning 22 such guides including ones on Japan (don't hug your host), Argentina (don't give tips), Sweden (don't sip your wine before breakfast) and Switzerland (don't send red roses). We'll stick with Oaxaca, thanks.

UE-HUH, I know what you're thinking. Did he cut six blades of grass or was it only five? Britain's very own Tom Atkins combine is understandably reserved in its annual report about its Smith & Wesson subsidiary, producer of "the most powerful handgun in the world". The at-a-glance guide at the front buries the Magnum-maker in a section headed "professional, garden & leisure products" with a pic of a lawnmower. In the detailed breakdown, S&W's hand-cuffs aren't a photo, but there's not a dot about shooters. Do I feel reticent? Well, do you punk?

AFINAL word on those don't-put-your-foot-in-it business guides from McGraw-Hill: some years ago, visitors to Japan were warned never, ever like never — blow your nose in public while in the land of the rising sun. On-the-spot investigation by a correspondent suffering chronic sinus difficulties proved conclusively that this was a load of old sush. The unworthy thought arises that all these cross-cultural gaffes have been invented by the publishers of gaffe-avoidance manuals.

Amsterdam

Smart Class not Club Class

£35

easyJet

USAir steps up campaign

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

USAIR last night stepped up its campaign against the proposed merger between British Airways and American Airlines by applying to operate from four US cities direct to Heathrow.

BA's unhappy American partner, which has already filed a lawsuit strongly opposing the merger, said it had applied to the US Department of Transportation for permission to serve Heathrow from Boston, Charlotte, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

The airline, in which BA has a 34.6 per cent stake, cited the need for competition in

the US-UK market in view of the proposed alliance between BA and AA. It said it would provide the only US flag competition in each of the four cities, which otherwise would be dominated by the services provided by BA and AA.

USAir's move puts increased pressure on the BA-AA merger. Two weeks ago it appeared a *fait accompli* after strong support from the Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, and the backing of the all-party Commons transport select committee, and muted opposition from other American airlines.

Now the outcome is not so straightforward. The Office of Fair Trading is to tell the Trade and Industry Secretary, Ian Lang, that the all-

ance constitutes a merger and that there is a case to refer it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. This will lead to a split in the Cabinet on how to respond.

USAir said it strongly supported the US government's efforts to secure an "open skies" agreement with the UK. But it stressed that this kind of deal required a market structure in which it and other US airlines could compete from their hub cities to Heathrow.

In the application, USAir said it believed it was uniquely situated because of its route network to give consumers an effective choice on schedules, prices and levels of service between almost 200 US cities and the UK.

مكتبة القرآن

Racing

Dettori hits out at bans system

Chris Hawkins reports on a day of mixed fortunes for Britain's champion jockey

FRANKIE DETTORI slipped off his cloud, but only temporarily, at York yesterday when handed a four-day suspension (starting August 30) for irresponsible riding...

the time - that in itself being a masterly effort from Lynch, who had been taught by his governor Reg Hollinshead not to win too far...



Lynch party... Fergal Lynch brings Clerkenwell (right) home ahead of Beauchamp Jade in yesterday's Ebor

Berry plays Mind Games

MIND GAMES, odds-on but only sixth in last year's Nunthorpe Stakes, may this afternoon finally achieve Jack Berry's ambition of training a group one winner at York...

York runners and riders with form guide

Table listing York runners and riders with form guide. Includes columns for runner name, jockey, and previous race results.

Channel 4

Channel 4 racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Channel 4

Channel 4 racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Channel 4

Channel 4 racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Channel 4

Channel 4 racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Yarmouth

Yarmouth racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Yarmouth

Yarmouth racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Yarmouth

Yarmouth racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Yarmouth

Yarmouth racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Yarmouth

Yarmouth racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Salisbury tonight

Salisbury racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Salisbury tonight

Salisbury racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Salisbury tonight

Salisbury racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Salisbury tonight

Salisbury racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Salisbury tonight

Salisbury racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Cartmel (N.H.) tonight

Cartmel racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Cartmel (N.H.) tonight

Cartmel racing schedule and results. Lists race numbers, names, and winners.

Results

Results section containing various racing outcomes and statistics.

Soccer

Beckham in the frame for call-up

David Lacey sees problems in defence as England coach looks for continuity

DAVID BECKHAM's spectacular garry-o of a goal last Saturday may well have secured the 21-year-old Manchester United midfielder a place in Glenn Hoddle's first England squad, which will be announced today. Hoddle's priority, however, will be to create a strong defensive base for the opening World Cup qualifier in Moldova on Sunday week, and here he is hardly spoilt for choice.

On taking over from Terry Venables less than eight weeks ago, Hoddle said he wanted to give England's younger talents a chance. Beckham's inclusion would add substance to that sentiment, but the new coach is short of a few wrinkles at the back.

Tony Adams, who led England to the semi-finals in Euro 96, has had another knee operation, and Graeme Le Saux, the obvious choice for left wing-back, is still not ready after a long lay-off; hence Hoddle's need to talk Stuart Pearce out of international retirement.

Hoddle can pick Gary and Phil Neville knowing that the young Manchester United pair are able to fill a variety of defensive roles, and Gareth Southgate should be sufficiently recovered from the trauma of missing his penalty in the semi-final shoot-out with Germany to take his place in the back three which looks likely to be a regular feature from now on.

Gary Fallister, who missed the European Championship with a back problem, looks a better option than another absentee, Mark Wright, but the defensive talent is still thinly spread.

Perhaps Hoddle is thinking of a change of role for Paul

Ince, who might make a sound anchorman at the back rather than in midfield. However, this would still beg the question of who could provide the defensive wedge between the penalty areas. If Hoddle asks himself whom he would least like to meet after taking the ball over the halfway line, the name of David Batty might spring to mind. Or Nicky Butt.

With Beckham in such obvious good form and Steve McNamara still taking the ball past opponents at will, Hoddle should not be stuck for players who like to go forward. But Paul Gascoigne has had an Achilles problem and already has missed a couple of games for Arsenal with a back injury, which does not bode well for Hoddle's hopes of maintaining a strong thread between the European Championship and the World Cup.

Already time is the new England coach's enemy. Venables had 24 years to prepare England for Euro 96. Hoddle will have less than a week to acquaint himself with his new charges before the match in Kishinev.

"With the games coming together so quickly it's going to be a very hectic start," he said yesterday. "Even though I've watched five Premier League matches in five days I still haven't seen as many as I would have liked. Ideally I would have liked another two weeks before having to name the squad."

So drastic changes are unlikely for the moment. Hoddle may ponder the way Teddy Sheringham's lack of pace was finally succumbed to by Shearer may find himself a lone striker in Kishinev. But two more Tottenham players, Darren Anderson and Sol Campbell, can expect to be retained, along with a former Spur, Nick Barmby.

The FA has invited Frank Skinner and David Baddiel, authors of the Euro 96 anthem, Football's Coming Home, to become involved with the national team in the build-up to the match against Poland at Wembley on October 9.



Unfamiliar territory... Shearer has trouble finding his early bearings on his home debut, with the Dons' defence looking similarly scatty.

Premiership: Newcastle United 2, Wimbledon 0

Shearer makes himself at home

NEWCASTLE fans were in for a roller coaster ride in whatever emotion happens to grip them at any given time. Last night, after the hype of Alan Shearer's £15 million signing and the humiliation of Wembley and Goodison, they finally had something to cheer.

But slowly they came back into the game, with Dicks the danger, three times forcing impressive saves from a veteran Ogriovic as the Coventry defence dangerously allowed the shaven-headed full-back time and space to roam from the edge of the box.

Nine minutes into the second half, to a rousing welcome, West Ham brought on Futre, once labelled the "new Maradona", for his first competitive game for the club.

Both sides had been left in the starting blocks on Saturday with opening-day defeats and were clearly out of sync on the pitch.

At his best a spectacular player, the 26-year-old striker never played the form expected of him and became a regular on the substitutes' bench.

Premiership: Man Utd 2, Everton 2

Cruyff wakes up champions

DAVID BECKHAM's spectacular garry-o of a goal last Saturday may well have secured the 21-year-old Manchester United midfielder a place in Glenn Hoddle's first England squad, which will be announced today.

It was a clinical example of finishing for United, who had created the better chances to that point but had been unable to take them. Cruyff missed in their, but managed to make up for it with a superb headed goal 20 minutes from time, and then in the 82nd minute United equalised when Unsworth turned Irwin's shot into his own net.

fore half-time. It was a beauty, too, and it came from Ferguson who until then had been afforded few opportunities by United's central defence.

United brought on McClair for Poborsky at the start of the second half but the game continued to run Everton's way until the 70th minute when Cruyff, from Irwin's cross, beat Southall with the most decisive of headers.

West Ham 1, Coventry 1

West Ham parry Big Ron's rocket

COVENTRY'S expensive side assembly was under pressure on the pound last night when a second-half pummeling by West Ham claimed a point after the Sky Blues had taken an early lead.

It was a real shock for United, who had looked so secure defensively up to that point. And worse was to follow when Ferguson got his second five minutes later.

Both sides had been left in the starting blocks on Saturday with opening-day defeats and were clearly out of sync on the pitch.

Aston Villa 1, Blackburn 0

Rovers unhinged by Southgate

GARETH SOUTHGATE came home last night for his first competitive game for the club.

Both sides had been left in the starting blocks on Saturday with opening-day defeats and were clearly out of sync on the pitch.

PFA pessimistic on money talks

PFA pessimistic on money talks

THE PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor yesterday conceded that he was pessimistic about reaching agreement tomorrow with the Football League over its allocation of money to the union from the Sky television deal.

Blackburn's captain Tim Sherwood yesterday agreed a new five-year deal with the club. Robert Coar, the club's chairman, said: "We are delighted to announce that he has agreed terms for a three-year extension to his contract, a five-year deal from now."

Unhappy Brolin leaves Leeds

Unhappy Brolin leaves Leeds

TOMAS BROLIN's unhappy spell at Leeds United came to an end yesterday when he joined the Swiss premier division side FC Zurich on a free transfer.

At his best a spectacular player, the 26-year-old striker never played the form expected of him and became a regular on the substitutes' bench.

BBC

MATCH-DAY

THE NEW WEEKLY MAGAZINE ONLY 61

the first

ON SALE EVERY THURSDAY

Results

Soccer

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP CUP

Qualifying round, second leg

Albania 2-0 (pen) vs Moldova 0-2

Latvia 2-0 vs Estonia 0-2

FA CUP

Southampton 0-0 vs Chelsea 0-0

Leeds 2-0 vs Southampton 0-2

Rugby League

Leeds 2-0 vs Wakefield 0-2

Tennis

Manley Cup (Concord, NY): First round: J. Spadek (USA) vs J. Spadek (USA) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4

Fixtures

(7:30 unless stated)

Soccer

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP CUP

Qualifying round, second leg: Moldova vs Albania 0-2

FA CUP

Southampton vs Chelsea 0-0

Leeds vs Southampton 0-2

Rugby League

Leeds vs Wakefield 0-2

Tennis

Manley Cup (Concord, NY): First round: J. Spadek (USA) vs J. Spadek (USA) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4

Fixtures

(7:30 unless stated)

Soccer

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP CUP

Qualifying round, second leg: Moldova vs Albania 0-2

FA CUP

Southampton vs Chelsea 0-0

Leeds vs Southampton 0-2

Rugby League

Leeds vs Wakefield 0-2

Tennis

Manley Cup (Concord, NY): First round: J. Spadek (USA) vs J. Spadek (USA) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4

Handwritten signature: J. Spadek

Cricket

England v Pakistan: third Comhill Test

England picadors need a matador

Paul Weaver

HIGH UP at The Oval there is a media eye, and once a puff-blow back has recovered his breath he can feel like an emperor.

Yesterday Union Flags and flags of St George fluttered jauntily in the breeze, and the House of Parliament, Gothic and preening, could just be seen as well as the austere M16 building. There was jingoism in the rarefied air and it felt tempting to give the little people below a careful of Henry V. Perhaps the England coach David Lloyd should take his players up there.

Down at ground level, life looks more tricky. England must beat Pakistan in the third and final Comhill Test, which starts today, to level the series 1-1, and they look unlikely to do so.

The Oval has not been bad to England. They have won 23 of their 78 Tests here, with only 14 defeats. The victories in 1991 when Phil Tufnell and David Lawrence bowled out West Indies, in 1993 when Australia went down by 161 runs, and in 1994 when Malcolm Bowdler out South Africa stand out in the memory.

On the other hand England have won only one of their last 18 Tests against Pakistan; and since 1965, when split tours were introduced in this country, there have been 23 three-match series, and only once has a side come back from 0-1 to level the series.

Lloyd and the England captain Mike Atherton said all the right things yesterday but the mood was one of grim optimism and the battle cry was more of a battle rattle.

Atherton and Raymond Iltingworth have improved the professionalism of this side and Lloyd has done much for the players' enthusiasm, but Pakistan remain clearly the stronger side.

They have perhaps the best two fast bowlers in the world: Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, and a match-winning leg-spinner, Mushtaq Ahmed. Against those, England have seamers who resemble a bunch of picadors looking for a matador, and Ian Salisbury, despite his improved century, has yet to prove his case at this level.

There was little firm team news yesterday, although Atherton confirmed that in the likely event of England playing just one slow bowler it would be the leg-spinner Salisbury and not the off-spinner Robert Croft. They will



Every pitch tells a story... the Pakistanis get a feel of The Oval turf yesterday; England are hoping for a pacy track

hope to bat first so that Alec Stewart can open the innings. Pakistan's captain, Wasim Akram, has hinted that the fast bowler Mohammad Akram might come into the side in place of Ata-ur-Rehman. He also praised Moiz Khan's wicket-keeping at Headingley, where he weighed in with a handy hundred, so the return of Rashid Latif, the first-choice stumper, is likely to be delayed. The batsman Aamir Sohail, recovered from his hand injury, will replace Shadab Kabir at the top of the order.

Waqar, formerly of Surrey, will feel at home at The Oval but some sensed yesterday that Wasim would be the more dangerous. He has taken only five wickets in this series but is six away from becoming the 11th bowler to reach 300.

"I hope I can take care of that in the first innings," he said. "I have been getting wickets in the county games. I didn't play in the last game because of a side strain but I'm okay now. I'm hoping tomorrow will be my day."

Lloyd is anxious that England should build on the slender psychological advantage won at Headingley, where they topped Pakistan's big first-innings total. "We fight rearguard actions well. Now we must go to the next stage and start winning matches."

Lloyd has asked his players to write down what they believe are their strong points, so that he can remind them of those before the game. "I did it at Lancashire years ago. Self-expression is important. And it's important not to dwell on what you can't do." It can only be hoped that not too many were left sucking their pencils and staring at a blank piece of paper.

Championship

Somerset v Durham

Rose blights Durham but Cox bites back

SOMERSET'S veteran all-rounder Graham Rose had his second century of the season on an entertaining first day of their match at Weston-super-Mare which saw almost 400 runs scored.

The medium-pace ripped out the heart of Durham's batting with a 31-ball spell in which he took five for 15 runs. But the wooden-spoon team bit back to muster 236, with the 23-year-old left-hander David Cox straddling only five short of a maiden century as Rose finished with seven for 73.

Somerset piled positively to reach 71 for one — Cox, inevitably, dismissing Marcus Trescothick (33) with his left-arm spin.

Durham, put in to bat by Peter Bowler on a pitch showing signs of wear, had begun brightly with the West Indian Sherwin Campbell (68) and Stewart Hurlton (37) sharing an opening stand of 103.

Golf

Seve fires Ryder Cup warning

Michael Brittan in Stuttgart

SEVERIANO Ballesteros has an uncompromising message for Europe's top players on the eve of the Volvo German Open here at Nippenburg yesterday. It amounted to a demand that all of them, the United States-based Nick Faldo included, make a major effort to qualify for the 1997 Ryder Cup at Valderrama when the programme starts next week.

"I don't want a team full of big names, I want the form players. You don't win matches with names, you win them only with games."

One big name missing this week is Colin Montgomerie, winner for the past two years. The European No. 1 has had to forfeit the opportunity to join Faldo (Irish Open) and Woosnam (Monte Carlo) as the only players to complete a treble in the past 25 years, because his father is ill.

Baiocchi pans for old gold

David Davies on the belated return of the South African who is no longer a forty-niner

ON SATURDAY August 17, Hugh Baiocchi blinked awake and thought: "I'd better be careful getting out of bed. At my age I might strain something."

It was the South African's 50th birthday; a landmark for anyone, but particularly so for a professional golfer, for whom it represents the chance to start anew.

In fact if the golfer is good enough it represents the chance to make more money than he ever dreamed possible, as the seniors tour in America and Europe provide fresh competitive opportunities.

Rugby Union

England bag a Wallaby series coup

Robert Armstrong

ENGLAND will play Australia twice a season for the next seven years, on a home and away basis in July and November, as a result of an historic agreement which sets up the first series of annual Tests between nations from the northern and the southern hemispheres.

The Australian RFU has also left the door open for a Test against England at Twickenham this December 7 if the Barbarians agree to its replacing their scheduled match with the tourists.

The fixture would be an all-seater 100-ball-out. John O'Neill, the ARFU chief executive, will now try to persuade the RFU to open talks with the Barbarians about giving England pride of place on December 7. But yesterday RFU sources were far from sure that the Barbarians should be leaned on to give up their prestige fixture.

No matter the outcome of that England's long-term deal with Australia is a timely reminder to their Five Nations rivals that Twickenham has bigger fish to fry elsewhere.

England are still seeking re-election to the competition for the coming season after angering the home unions with their separate television deal with BSkyB.

So far the unions have steered clear of courts in their efforts to resolve the impasse, but RFU debenture-holders, alarmed at the prospect of forfeiting Five Nations fixtures, may well seek a High Court injunction to prevent England's exclusion by their erstwhile partners.

As matters stand, Wales, Scotland and Ireland still intend to forge ahead with plans for a new international competition that would include France and, perhaps, Italy, should England fail to toe the collective line by the end of next week.

Scots make Hastie decision

SCOTLAND have appointed the 61-year-old Arthur Hastie as team manager in succession to Jim Telfer, who stood down to concentrate on his duties as the SRU's salaried director of rugby.

Hastie's role will be largely administrative. "There is a general move to giving the coaches more responsibility," said Scotland's convenor of rugby Duncan Paterson. "The business of rugby is now too professional to perform a multiplicity of tasks."

Tennis

Injured Becker misses US Open

BORIS BECKER, the Australian Open champion, has withdrawn from next week's US Open at Flushing Meadow. The German world No. 5 is still suffering from the wrist injury he sustained at Wimbledon.

The tournament chairman, the USTA president Les Snyder, said officials wanted the seedings to be a more accurate predictor and they took into account players' recent performances and hard-court records.

However, Michael Chang must have been surprised to find himself hot on the heels of Pete Sampras yesterday when the US Tennis Association took a leaf out of Wimbledon's book and deviated from the ATP rankings in formulating the men's seedings.

Sport in brief

Cycling Graeme Obree will not defend his world track title in Manchester next week, on medical advice. The Scot, who retained his 4,000 metres pursuit title last year, has a viral infection. He hopes to return for October's world time-trial championship in Lugano.

Athletics

Thanks to "a great sponsor" which Primo Nebiolo did not name, a bonus of \$100,000 (\$85,000) will be paid to any world record breaker at next year's world championships in Athens, the IAAF president said yesterday.

Chess

Vlastimil Hort beat Zsuzsa Polgar quickly as the veteran

Paralympics

Wiscombe's emotional gold Richard Reddon in Atlanta

Snooker

Twice in 24 hours the wayward former world champion Alex Higgins has scratched from world-ranking events because he objected to the referees. It happened yesterday in a qualifying round of the British Open at Blackpool, which was to be refereed by the experienced John Williams, and the previous day at a Thailand Open match to be refereed by Lawrence Annandale.

Rugby League

The 28-year-old Tongan prop Les Hansen is set to leave Widnes for Wigan, writes Paul Fitzpatrick. The clubs are close to an end-of-season deal. The only firm offer yet made for Warrington's unsettled stand-off or full-back Iestyn Harris is a rejected bid of £350,000 from Saracens.

Boxing

Hector "Macho" Camacho outpointed Nima at New York's Madison Square

Swimming

Beverley Whitfield, Australia's Olympic 200 metres breaststroke champion in Munich, was found dead at her home at Wollongong near Sydney yesterday. She was 42.

سكرة من الالعاب

on the ra

High-flying Dettori hit with ban, page 13
Wallabies set up England series, page 15

Hoddle looks to his defence, page 14
Ballesteros warns Ryder veterans, page 15

SportsGuardian

CHELSEA'S LESS HERALDED ITALIAN HAS THE BEATING OF 'BORO

Premiership: Chelsea 1, Middlesbrough 0

Blues welcome Di Matteo

David Lacey

GIANLUCA VIALLI must be wondering when he is going to meet one of those weak and naive defences which are supposed to abound in the English game.

Having been denied a goal at Southampton on Sunday, Chelsea's Italian striker ran into some solid Middlesbrough resistance at Stamford Bridge last night.

Not that Fabrizio Ravanelli, Vialli's erstwhile partner in the Juventus attack, found life any easier against Chelsea's new French sweeper Franck Leboeuf. As a result, a match which flowed evenly and imaginatively in midfield struggled to produce a goal at either end until Roberto Di Matteo put Chelsea ahead five minutes from the end with a low, skidding shot from 25 yards.

Chelsea's 5-0 home win against Middlesbrough in February seemed rather more than six months distant last night as Italians, Brazilians, a Frenchman and a Romanian turned London SW6 into the Premiership's Latin quarter.

Middlesbrough were now better equipped to trade goals after the signing of Ravanelli. For Chelsea goals remained a matter of theory following the scoreless draw away to Southampton.

They had already seen the difference a genuine sweeper, Leboeuf, could make to the tempo and pattern of their football. Now Stamford Bridge awaited Vialli's response to Ravanelli's instant hat-trick against Liverpool.

However it was Chelsea's other Italian signing, Di Matteo, who initially caught the eye. With each team employing five in midfield, players who could bring the ball out of the crowd and use it constructively were always going to be influential, as Di Matteo soon demonstrated.



Spark into life... Mark Hughes of Chelsea directs the play at Stamford Bridge last night as Neil Cox settles for a bit part

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BAPTON

The match was less than a minute old when he began a move with Wise and Vialli which he then carried on himself before producing a cross which Middlesbrough were glad to clear.

Then after 20 minutes a finely angled through-pass from Di Matteo was designed to send Vialli clear of Pearson and would have done had the Middlesbrough defender not dragged his man down. A yellow card followed; 10 yards further on and it might have been red.

Still Di Matteo's runs from the deep held out more promise of a Chelsea goal. Just before the half-hour he instigated an attack which saw Hughes, Petrescu, and Vialli work the ball out to Wise on the right. As Wise's cross dipped into the goal-mouth Di Matteo was there with a shot which Miller tipped over the bar.

Ravanelli's first real opportunity arrived 11 minutes before half-time. Having recovered from a painful encounter with Di Matteo, he found himself clear and outside after Whyte's long pass had caught Chelsea on the break. A goal seemed likely as Ravanelli bore down on Kharina, but he dragged his shot wide.

Vialli brought the crowd to its feet soon afterwards when he flicked up Petrescu's centre to the far post before volleying the ball into the side netting. With Barmby putting Juninho through, only for Di Matteo to tackle the little Brazilian as he was about to shoot, the football remained rich in attacking flair.

Norfolk and Devon major in the minors



Frank Keating

A PALPITATING last day of Minor Counties cricket, in which information criss-crossed the land as if by bush telegraph, ended last night with mobile phones finally being laid to their silent scabbards as the respective regional champions emerged as Devon and Norfolk, who will meet on September 9-9.

In the west, Devon beat Cornwall by 46 runs at Truro while Hereford, the upstart front runners all summer, fell at the last against Wales by three wickets. In the east, Norfolk lost to Suffolk by 10 runs at Mildenhall yet had, just enough points in the bag to thwart a charge by Buckinghamshire and Cambridgeshire.

Yesterday's eastern dash for the wire featured three of the competition's most stalwart counties down the century. Norfolk were the inaugural winners 107 years ago. Buckinghamshire were seeking their 10th title yesterday, and Cambridgeshire have particularly been a force in recent years by reaching six finals since 1987.

So it was the western region's grand finale yesterday to which romantics tuned. The fine journalist and sometime good Somerset opener Peter Roebuck has led Devon with his challenging mixture of cerebral cunning and hard-nosed nous to two successive outright titles, and was looking yesterday to present his adopted county with their fifth trophy in five years.

Herefordshire were elected a Minor County only on Durham's elevation in 1993, since when, in spite of comforting fanfares each springtime, Durham have been hand-wringing mums and are dolefully expecting a fourth wooden spoon in five seasons in the big time. Meanwhile the unconsidered Minor County on the Welsh Borders have in their turn made their curtsy with a strikingly precocious zest, qualifying for the NatWest in 1994, reaching the Lord's final last summer, and dancing a merry jig through 1996, unbeaten until yesterday.

Significantly, yesterday's fulminating conclusions were designed for the first time to reach a simultaneous finish. This prevented any "you- scratch-my-back" fiddling of bonus points in the annual scrapping not only for regional honours but for the chance to qualify for next season's NatWest Trophy.

Regional triumph, and now on course for a third overall clean-sweep title, I suppose makes Roebuck — Oxford-born with a Cantab first — Devon's most celebrated cricket person since umpire emeritus David Shepherd.

Herefordshire folk, meanwhile, will remind you that the grand Victorian hitter C I Thornton was born at Llanwern. Jack Sharp scored a double century for Herefordshire against Leedbury and was taken up by Lancashire (as well as Everton and England as a footballer) and scored a century for England against Australia in 1939 at The Oval but was never picked again.

This morning at The Oval as well, some real old-timers from Hereford will be thinking of another son born under the rosy-red eubedra's shadow: Reg Parks, who was picked for just one home Test in England, at Kennington in 1939, when he took five wickets in West Indies' only innings, and likewise was never picked again.

REG was one of John Arlott's best friends. The weekend before that one appearance beneath the gasometers, Arlott played a benefit match for Parks at Much Marcle, near Ledbury. He borrowed Reg's bat and broke it, John said, hitting the only six of his life.

In return Arlott made Parks immortal with the opening verse of one of his most enduring poems, Cricket at Worcester.

*Dozing in deck-chair's gentle curve,
Through half-closed eyes I watch the cricket.
Knowing the sporting press would say
'Parks bowled well on a perfect wicket.'
Typically for this very morning, another Herefordshire cricketer man, whose family ancestors are still stalwarts of Ledbury CC, also began an epic poem at The Oval before the Ashes match of 1892, the Poet Laureate John Massfield no less.
Though wayward Time be changeful as Man's will,
We have the game, we have The Oval still,
And still the gas-works mark the gas-works end
And still our sun shines and the rats descend.
Not the latter, one hopes,
And Hereford might not have won, but they made their mark all right in 1996.*

BECKSENTRICS

EURO STAR OFF THE WEEK

SAFARI PARKING
An elephant is not just for Christmas, it is for popping in to the pub too. For an animal trainee Marcus Baccetti often scoots into town on Maria - his trusty elephant. But Maria is prone to the pitfall of conventional means of transport. Having left her outside a bar in Naples, Baccetti returned to find a parking ticket stuck to the elephant's side.

THE LONELY
Keep off my moon. So says German pensioner Martin Juergens as apparently, the moon has been in his family since 1756, when King Fredrick II kindly passed it on to one of his ancestors. Juergens now plans to sue the Russians and the Americans for trespassing on his property.

BLIND FAITH
Jose Pinto had been driving the seven miles to work in downtown Madrid for three years before the police stopped and arrested him. Diego had been alerted by his employers, who were concerned for Pinto's safety - as he was 95 per cent blind. He had been stopped the previous year for not having a licence, but the eagle-eyed police failed to register his visual impairment - an easy oversight however, since his car was totally unscathed. He was released without charge.

DIET OF CHAMPIONS
At 72 years old, French grandfather Flavole must be one of the world's oldest champions. And one of the more remarkable, in an age where sporting achievement is lauded in disciplines from running to beach volleyball to synchronized swimming. Monsieur Flavole may yet gain the recognition he truly deserves. And his triumph? He ate a 5in black pudding in under ten minutes to beat off the competition in a sausage-eating contest in South West France.

PLAYING BY THEIR OWN RULES

Yet as Ravanelli and Vialli put headers over the bar in the space of a minute early in the second half there was even more urgent need of a goal to thicken the plot. Juninho threatened to end the deadlock after Barmby's pass had seen him sprint clear of Di Matteo into an unguarded Chelsea half, but Clarke was still able to make a covering tackle.

By this time, with Emerson starting to steal the midfield from Di Matteo, Middlesbrough were pressing home their attacks with more conviction than Chelsea.

Hughes, however, would surely have given Chelsea the lead in the 66th minute had he not been a fraction too far forward when he met Petrescu's low cross.

Chelsea: Kharina; Clarke, Leboeuf, Johnson, Petrescu, Morris, Di Matteo, Wise, Miro, Hughes, Vialli. Middlesbrough: Miller; Pearson, Vickers, Whyte, Barmby, Cox, Huddle, Emerson, Fleming, Juninho, Ravanelli, Roberts, G. Willard (Worthing).

Guardian Crossword No 20,738

Set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Malevolence one can bear (5)
- 4 Grants a minor point (5)
- 9 A positive sign (4)
- 10 Calling for a military takeover (10)
- 11 The significance of graven images out East (5)
- 12 Great place for fresh air (3)
- 13 He stands, wishing to sit (3)
- 16 Music circle (4)
- 18 Lots of trousers (4)
- 17 It teaches reform in accordance with good taste (5)
- 21 Don't give up getting the unit back in shape (5)
- 22 Prophet is first-class, given a head start (5)
- 24 Tries to reach agreement, but gets into a muddle about one point (10)

Down

- 25 Similar to a family group (4)
- 26 Man answered her riddle (6)
- 27 Dash inside the chain-store (5)

Down

- 1 A festive cuppa for the nymph (7)
- 2 Worried by the top dentures? (5)
- 3 Complained when awoken after midnight (7)
- 5 An animal, it has one foot upflitted (5)
- 6 Limit the drink, it makes good sense (5)
- 7 Did a rough job of clearing? (7)
- 8 Equipment bills include replacement meter (13)
- 14 Canine check (5)
- 16 They go on tiny feet (7)
- 18 Try this concoction when dry (7)

19 I adopt a Latin form of language (7)
20 American officer shows the flag (5)
23 Partly under water from waves caused by a passing vessel (5)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0845 328 228. Call cost 25p per min, cheap rate, 40p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ATS

Online page 12

تکواندو الفجر